



WOOD RIVER WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

BALLOT SUMMARIES 2017 GRANT APPLICANTS REQUESTING OVER \$10,000

THE ADVOCATES – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST

The Advocates are requesting \$25,000 to continue a program we funded last year – Domestic Violence Housing First. The total project cost is \$61,526. This program focuses on getting survivors of domestic violence into stable housing, as quickly as possible, and then provides the necessary support as they rebuild their lives. The program includes flexible financial assistance for those survivors who are struggling to retain their existing or obtain new housing, which may include rent, pay off of utility bills, clothing to interview for a job or security deposit. The Advocates operate a four unit apartment building in Hailey as safe, transitional, short term housing for women and children needing to escape domestic violence.

This project meets a critical need in our community and the evaluating committee believes this program is extremely important to the health and well being of the families confronted with domestic violence. The Advocates work with other non-profits in our community to also lend assistance – Hunger Coalition, Mountain Rides (bus passes), CSI (classes on money management) and YMCA (passes). The Domestic Violence Housing First program has measurable results after their first year and the committee is confident the project will succeed.

www.theadvocatesorg.org

BLAINE COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – SIGNATURE PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT BCSD STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Blaine County Education Foundation (BCEF) is seeking \$25,000 of a total project cost of \$121,700 to fund four signature programs in education. The “Can Do Fund” – assists students with financial aid, “Teachers Mini Grants” – \$500 grants which enable teachers to introduce new ideas in the classrooms, “Education Enhancement Program” – provides funding for extra classes to assist students who are struggling with core academic and life skills and “Academic Excellence Fund” – which helps students participate in

extracurricular activities by helping pay for fees, travel expenses, etc... The objectives of these programs are to enhance student education and their learning environment, and to focus community resources and raise funds for the Blaine County School District. Students are also active in raising additional funds for these programs. These programs serve over 2,250 students and teachers.

The evaluating committee found this project to meet the core elements of the WRWF criteria – a critical community need, overall enrichment of the community, creative approach to a persistent problem and capacity building. The programs have experienced growth in the past year with quantifiable results in the education of both students and teachers. BCEF is committed to promoting academic excellence, equitable education and providing a healthy and sustainable student environment.

www.supportbcef.org

BLAINE COUNTY SENIOR COUNCIL dba THE SENIOR CONNECTION – AVAILABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

The Senior Connection is seeking a \$25,000 grant for a total project cost of \$210,000. This program is an expansion to the current transportation provided by the Senior Connection. In collaboration with Idaho Department of Transportation, this project will expand the current transportation offered to include 3 para-transit vans; one with a lift for wheelchairs, a second with a slide ramp and a third with a rear side passenger ramp. As well as an ADA small capacity bus (7 passenger plus 2 wheelchairs). This will allow significantly safer and more flexible transportation for those who are either disabled or unable to drive; with an on-demand, door to door transportation and through-the-door transport for the vulnerable senior population. The secondary market for these services include seniors who should no longer be driving themselves, or are uncomfortable with driving (e.g. at night), disabled persons of any age and community residents needing transport to medical appointments in Twin Falls. Twin Falls is the most common request for service by seniors, as there is not a service currently in our area.

The evaluating committee strongly recommends this project. The growing need for reliable transportation in our community is critical to the well being of our seniors and those disabled. This project meets the needs of a persistent problem in the community.

www.blainecountyseiors.com

THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY – CREATIVE CRAFT AND COMPUTER AREA FOR THE CHILDREN’S LIBRARY

Our local Community Library is requesting \$25,000 to develop a craft and learning area in the Children's Library, as part of a comprehensive facilities renovation plan. The total project is \$70,000. Components of the creative learning area include a new computer room, a designated area with a sink, storage and new flooring for craft activities and improved lighting and electrical systems in the area. The overarching goal of this project is to add a new dimension to the children's library that is not already there, with a more dynamic space that will be more relevant and special. The renovated area will assist the librarians to "activate" storytelling and literacy programs with more hands on activities and also with digital technologies. In addition the goal is to increase pre-teen and early teen participation, better serve children with disabilities and introduce new program curricula during the 2017-2018 school years.

Our evaluating committee feels this is a compelling project because the library plays a major role in opening up the world to young children and provides a safe environment. The library is FREE to anyone and totally funded by direct donations and grants, and receives no State or local funding.

www.comlib.org

HUNGER COALITION – BLOOM YOUTH PROJECT

The Hunger Coalition is requesting a grant for \$25,000 of a total project cost of \$80,497. This project would be funding a new pilot program for food insecure youth with promise, from the Silver Creek and Wood River High Schools. The project includes learning how to grow and harvest vegetables and berry fruit, how to prepare and cook lunch, money management, communication skills and setting personal goals. The program would plan to hire 6-10 youth interns between the ages of 14-16 in February and additional interns in May, if the project can take on more interns. This is a paid internship for at risk teens that suffer unthinkable hardships at home, but are too proud, too lost and too disconnected to seek help. The food will be grown on a 5 acre farm in Quigley Canyon which is leased from a local farmer for \$1 per year. Food that is grown will be sold at mobile markets. The Bloom Youth will have a hand in every step of the food system from Bloom Community Farm to the Bloom Mobile Food Market. Through key partnerships with The Advocates, Drug Coalition, Blaine County Youth Probation and St. Luke's Center for Community Health, they are crafting a unique program to help youth develop critical life skills.

The evaluating committee was very impressed with this project and the amount of research that went into preparing and outlining the program to ensure its success. They felt that the program identified a need in our valley to create something that would help our at-risk youth and in the long term, give those youth life lasting lessons in self sufficiency. This is an underserved population that will benefit from this kind of intervention.

www.thehungercoalition.org

LAVA LAKES INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION - WOOD RIVER WOLF PROJECT

The Wood River Wolf Project is seeking \$15,000 of a total project budget of \$85,480. 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 provide gap funding to 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 sheepherders, 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. Capacity building grants for a non-profit is an important part of the WR Women's Foundation's work, and this project demonstrates that.

www.woodriverwolfproject.org

SUN VALLEY SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION- LEARN TO ALPINE SKI AND RACE

The SVSEF is requesting \$20,000 to supplement funding for the LASAR program (Learn to Alpine Ski and Race) which has a project budget of \$36,500. This after school program provides students ages 5 to 11, with 16 days of on-snow ski sessions led by qualified and trained SVSEF coaches. The grant includes the cost of the Rotarun Seasonal Ski Passes, equipment and coaching compensation, including insurance and workmen's' comp. There are 75 kids enrolled in the program this year and 15 on a waiting list. This program enables each participant to reach his/her athletic potential while developing a strong personal character through sportsmanship, solid values and individual goals. Alpine skiing is an expensive sport, but it is SVSEF's mission to provide children from all socioeconomic backgrounds with the opportunity to participate and excel.

The evaluating committees strongly supports the LASAR program and feel certain that SVSEF has the commitment and strength to guide, sustain and expand this program into the future. They met several of the coaches and it was evident their focus and dedication

to providing the children a high quality program, while ensuring their enjoyment on the mountain.

www.svsef.org

SUN VALLEY SUMMER SYMPHONY - ELEMENTARY STRINGS PROGRAM INSTRUMENT BANK

The SVSS in partnership with Blaine County School District Music Educators is requesting \$19,840 of a total project cost of \$26,090. This free Elementary Strings Program provides students in the 4th & 5th grades access and instruction in learning to play the violin, viola and cello, regardless of their ability to purchase or rent an instrument. This year is Phase 2 of the program which has grown in size from 35 students to approximately 70 students. Phase 2 would add \$15,000 of additional instruments, as well as added staff time to manage the instrument bank, work with student mentors and provide instrument maintenance repair for the existing bank. The School of Music serves over 500 students, primarily in the South Valley area. Good quality instruments are critical to students' success. The program reaches many underserved students and provides early exposure to music education and an extracurricular activity outside of sports.

The site visit committee feels that this project addresses an enrichment of the youth in our community and a critical need to help those students that otherwise would not have an opportunity to be exposed to string instruments. The collaboration of the SVSS and BCSD is an excellent example of a partnership with a common goal to promote personal and intellectual growth through music.

www.svsummersymphony.org

SWIFTSURE RANCH THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER - HORSE POWER

Swiftsure Ranch is requesting \$25,000 for the Horse Power project which has a project cost of \$30,000. Swiftsure provides equine-assisted activities and therapies which encourage the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children and adults with disabilities. The ranch has an aged herd of horses that need to be replaced with new horses. They are requesting funds to purchase 4 to 5 horses in 2017. The estimated cost for the horses is approximately \$20,000 and will be in service at the ranch for an estimated 20 years of age. In addition the program includes the cost for training the horses, staff and volunteers. Swiftsure is the only equine therapy program in the Valley and currently serves 122 rides per week, as well as over 200 additional riders per year through collaboration with other non-profits, including Senior Connection, Higher Ground, Camp Rainbow Gold, Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, St Luke's, Idaho Probation Department, to name a few...all at no cost.

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.swiftsure ranch.org

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

The Wood River Community YMCA is seeking a grant of \$25,000 with a total project cost of \$97,700. 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. This is a national program at 60 YMCA's across the country. This will be the second year that the YMCA offers this program - last year it worked with students in the 2nd & 3rd grades. The program this year will serve 60 fifth and sixth grade scholars identified by BCSD as high-need for early intervention strategies in math and literacy. This is a 6 week summer program. The program serves a critical community need, as the school district has eliminated summer school programs. The Blaine County School District will collaborate with the YMCA in identifying those students most at need, providing classroom space in a school free of charge, as well as transportation to and from the Academy Camp. The YMCA is seeking grants from other foundations and is commencing work on a 5 year plan for self funding to this program.

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 Wood River Community YMCA has become a model for this program throughout the country and is worth of our support.

www.woodriverymca.org

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST – NEW NATURE PRESERVE IN THE HEART OF HAILEY

The WRLT is requesting a grant of \$22,565 towards the project cost of \$32,040. The grant will create a new preserve contiguous to the Draper Preserve, which is also owned by the WRLT, in Hailey. The WRLT has acquired 150 acres of river waterfront. They now need grant money to preserve the land for a publically accessible nature preserve. The grant will be used to restore 10 areas of agricultural fields to native meadows,

remove old barbed wire fences at the property perimeter, remove noxious weeds, develop trails and a small footbridge and install interpretive and directional signage. This project will extend the Hailey Greenway, which is comprised of Lions Park and Heagle Park (owned by the City of Hailey). This corridor extends from the Bullion Bridge to Colorado Gulch. The project will provide a sanctuary for wildlife and safeguard this precious land for the community today and forever. Our time in nature defines our community. These nature preserves provide the community with areas for children to play, families to fish, picnic, school science project field trips and family celebrations like weddings, birthdays, anniversaries or graduations.

The evaluating committee highly recommends this project. It supports the WRWF criteria of sustainability, community need and overall enrichment. The WRLT has protected more than 25,000 acres of land and represents our community as stewards of the land, all for our enjoyment.

www.woodriverlandtrust.org