



ANNUAL REPORT

20
24



Where to Find us



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Sparrow's Nest of
Northwest Montana



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59904



[sparrowsnest.nwmt](https://www.instagram.com/sparrowsnest.nwmt)





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Housing Youth & Building Futures



The Sparrow's Nest is dedicated to creating safe and stable housing for unaccompanied homeless high school students across Northwest Montana. Our organization provides valuable resources and guidance to our residents, ensuring that they can become successful, independent, and contributing members of our community. We take pride in our mission and the valuable services we provide make lasting impacts and build brighter futures for the youth we serve.



Since our program's formal operations began in 2016, we have been entirely community-funded. With your support, we ensure that our students have the opportunity to complete their secondary education without worrying about how to access the resources needed for success. Our staff designs individualized case management plans that outline the critical steps for each student's journey. Sparrow's Nest's mission is to provide our residents with the tools and support necessary to achieve their goals and build a brighter future.



What Makes a House a Home?

I often reflect on this question as somehow, against all odds, our eight-bedroom facility feels like the warmest and most inviting home. At Sparrow's Nest, community members frequently drop by to donate household items, staff carry out safety checks and casework, and service providers meet with our Program Manager about new residents. Meanwhile, our current residents are busy with chores, homework, personal goals, and spending time with family and friends. The energy is contagious, and together, we create something magical: a place where residents leave behind chaos and fear, finding stability and hope.

In 2024, 15 youth experiencing homelessness called our program home. Currently, six residents live at our facility, three of whom will graduate this June. It is no small feat for teens to leave behind everything they know to live in a communal environment with 24/7 supervision and high expectations. For the 15 students we served in 2024, choosing Sparrow's Nest has made a lasting impact, giving them not only a high school education but also valuable life skills like budgeting, cooking, and job experience. These lessons will help them lead the lives they've always dreamed of.

This year also marked new milestones. Our administrative team launched a new logo, branding, and soon, a new website—demonstrating that Sparrow's Nest is a thriving and professional organization dedicated to serving homeless youth for years to come. Additionally, we established a permanent endowment fund through Whitefish Community Foundation, securing our organization's longevity and offering incredible tax incentives for donors.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our staff, Board of Directors, residents, and especially our donors. As a community-funded nonprofit, we are continually inspired by the generosity around us. Whether through financial support or in-kind donations, every contribution brings us closer to ending youth homelessness in our community.

So, what makes a house a home? It's the cluttered kitchen table, laughter in the hallways, celebrations of success, and even a bit of tough love. Our program is a house for youth in need, but the people—supporters, donors, staff, and Board Members—make it a home. In my over five years with this incredible organization, it's the people who have brought our mission to life. Thank you to everyone who makes this work possible. In this report, I hope you see our passion and the impact of this important work.



Rachelle Buckley

Rachelle K. Buckley

Executive Director
Sparrow's Nest of NW MT



Our Dedicated Staff



RACHELLE BUCKLEY

Executive Director



ROBERT BREKKE

Program Manager



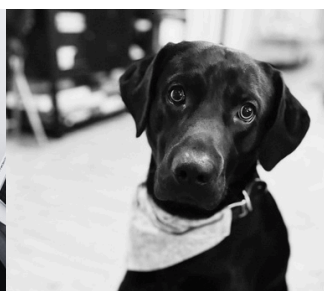
INDIGO REVANDER

Program Coordinator



ALEXIS ANTTONEN

Development Director



KIYO

House Staff



TAWNY KINSLOW

House Staff



SUSIE BERTRAM

House Staff



NICHOLAS PETROVE

House Staff



KYRA SCHROEDER

House Staff

*Not Pictured as needed staff: Leighna Longoria & Caitlin Pitcher

Meet the Board



With a focus on governance and financial accountability, our Board of Directors works alongside our team to ensure longevity and top level care to the youth we serve.



Linda Kaps, Chair

Founding Board Member
SD5 School Board Member
Retired Educator



Sean Frampton, Secretary

Frampton Purdy Law Firm
Attorney



Kelly Ruby, Treasurer

Glacier Bank Kalispell
Operations Supervisor



Tina Blair

Fair-Mont-Egan School
Superintendent/Principal



Mary Obermiller

Obermiller Law
Founding Attorney &
Mediator



Jake Berry

Engel & Völkers
Real Estate
Agent



Clint McClure

MMI
CEO



Our Mission in Action

Since our inception in 2014, Sparrow's Nest has been committed to addressing the growing need for safe housing for youth facing homelessness in Northwest Montana. We prioritize resident safety, understanding the challenges of transitioning to a new environment. By addressing both their immediate and long-term needs, we support our residents through every challenge, empowering them to complete their high school education and prepare for adulthood.

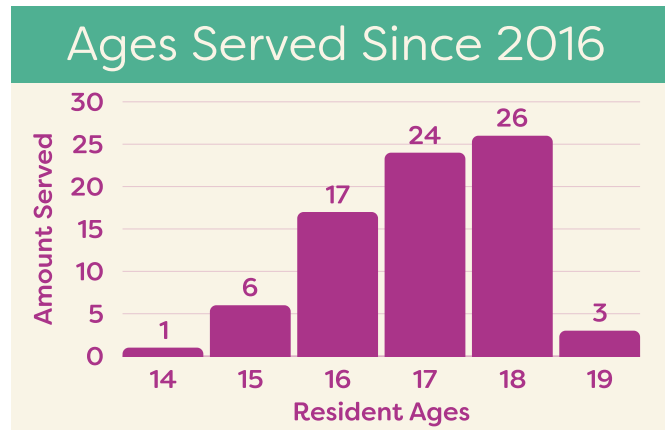
Our eight bedroom around the clock staffed facility ensures that each resident receives individualized care tailored to their needs. Through dedicated efforts to foster relationships, Sparrow's Nest creates a lasting impact on the youth we serve.



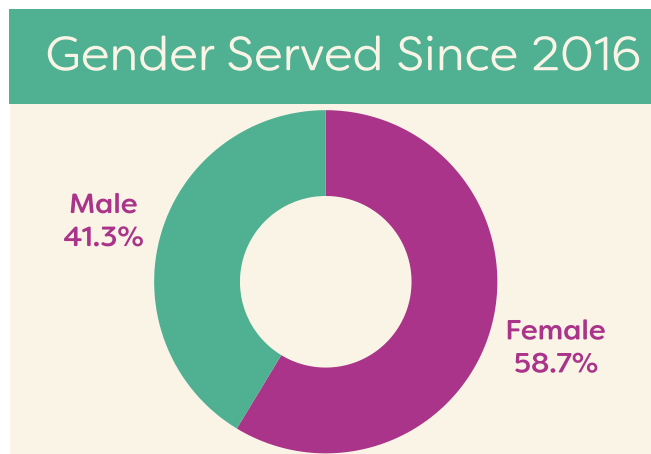
Over ten years since our humble beginnings and the Sparrow's Nest of NW MT is a thriving non profit that has supported over 75 students, providing them with essential services and a safe environment to rebuild their lives. Montana has seen a significant increase in youth homelessness, with numbers rising from 119 in 2016 to 325 in 2024. This represents an increase of over 170%, highlighting the growing urgency to address the challenges faced by homeless youth in the state. The Sparrow's Nest is the only voluntary program in Montana that ties housing to education to reduce the recidivism of homelessness through education, life skills, and job readiness.



Our Mission: By the Numbers



90% of Sparrow's Nest Residents were referred because they were living in unsafe living environments.



The longest stay being nearly **3 years**, resulting the resident receiving their Highschool Diploma, and successfully moving out on their own!



■ Youth Homelessness in Montana



Montana's vast rural landscapes create unique challenges for addressing youth homelessness, where resources like shelters and transportation are scarce. Many homeless youth stay in cars, motels, or rely on friends for temporary housing—a reality shaped by family conflict, poverty, or unsafe environments. These struggles are often less visible in rural areas but equally urgent. The McKinney-Vento Act provides students experiencing homelessness with educational protections, like transportation and uninterrupted enrollment, but does not address the fundamental issue of housing. Our programming fills this gap, ensuring that young people across Montana, including its rural communities, can find stability and pursue their education in a safe and supportive environment.



What Does the Data Say?



According to the 2024 MT P.I.T Count, there were **325** homeless children across the state of Montana



There has been a **42%** increase of homeless youth in Montana compared to 2024



28.2% of homeless students did not go to school because they felt unsafe on their way to or from school



Homeless youth are at a higher risk for mental health challenges, substance abuse, educational barriers, exploitation and victimization



Funding Sources

Sparrow's Nest is funded through the generosity of our community and supporters and receives no state or federal funding. Support from foundations and donors is vital to our mission enabling us to address the hidden struggles facing Montana's unaccompanied youth. Fundraising opportunities, like the Great Fish Community Challenge sponsored by Whitefish Community Foundation, are some of our biggest income sources. Additionally, the consistent support of our monthly donors and in-kind donations sustains our mission. With resources like these, we are able to transform the lives of our residents and strengthen our beautiful community here in Northwest Montana.

FUNDING 23-24 FISCAL YEAR

Individual Donations	\$142,405.33
Monthly Donors	\$14,839.16
Business Donations	\$17,050.00
Churches & Service Clubs	\$11,107.64
Grants & Foundations	\$115,200.00
Fundraising Events	\$181,652.67
Other	\$32,443.83
Total Funds	\$514,698.63



Program Expenses

Operating a program dedicated to providing safe housing and resources for homeless youth in Montana comes with significant financial responsibilities. One of Sparrow's Nest's largest expenses is payroll, as our state-licensed eight-bedroom facility requires 24/7 staffing to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. Hiring qualified individuals is essential, which involves rigorous vetting processes, including finger print based background checks and comprehensive interviews. Once hired, we prioritize competitive pay and benefits packages to retain our staff and maintain low turnover rates, which in turn helps minimize recruitment and training costs. Our program is dedicated to providing residents with essential support, including medical care, nutritious meals, and other necessities. This care is made possible through the generosity of our community.

EXPENSES 23-24 FISCAL YEAR

Pay Roll	\$333,292.71
Program & Students	\$26,590.01
Utilities	\$8,570.19
Business & Admin	\$37,784.90
Insurance	\$13,642.00
Total Cost	\$419,879.81



Sparrow's Nest of NW MT Permanent Endowment Fund

We're excited to announce the establishment of a permanent endowment fund at Whitefish Community Foundation. This was all made possible by Diane Lynne Scales who generously donated a portion of her estate to our mission. Her incredible gift ensures lasting support for The Sparrow's Nest of NW MT. This achievement was guided with care and expertise by Tanko Law Firm, whose dedication helped bring Diane's vision to life seamlessly. This endowment is a testament to the power of generosity and community.



What is an Endowment Fund?

Endowment funds are a powerful tool for both donors and the nonprofit organizations they support. The donor's original gift is pooled with other like gifts and invested to both preserve purchasing power and generate revenue. The principal value of the endowment fund is kept intact, while the investment earnings and growth can be distributed to the beneficiary nonprofit for charitable activities, thus allowing donors to support causes they care about in perpetuity and providing a sustainable revenue stream to the organization.



What are the Benefits of an Endowment Fund?

Endowment funds are reliable, stable, and permanent, ensuring long-term financial sustainability and peace of mind for nonprofits as they plan for the future. For donors, endowments offer an impactful way to leave a lasting legacy, knowing their contributions will support vital causes for generations to come. These funds serve as a foundation for growth and resilience within communities.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE TAX CREDIT


\$15,000


\$30,000


\$15,000

40%

Percentage of individual planned
gift value eligible for tax credit

20%

Percentage of business direct gift
value for tax credit.

How Can I Support the Fund?

The Sparrow's Nest of NW MT Endowment Fund is held by Whitefish Community Foundation, and they offer many options for donors to make their gifts, including cash, appreciated securities and IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions. Additionally, our endowment is a permanent, irrevocable fund qualified for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. Through this unique tax credit incentive, a Montana taxpayer can receive a 40% credit (up to a maximum of \$15,000 for individuals, \$30,000 for married couples) against their Montana state tax liability by making a planned gift to a qualified endowment. Businesses can also take advantage of a 20% tax credit (up to a maximum of \$15,000) by making a direct gift to a qualified endowment. Please contact Rachelle Buckley for more information about using the Montana Qualified Endowment Tax Credit to support the Sparrow's Nest of NW MT Endowment at Whitefish Community Foundation.



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Become a Nest Builder!

Join our Nest Builders family and make a difference with a monthly donation! Support from monthly donors directly funds student care and activities, helping us provide for our residents' daily needs. In the 23-24 fiscal year monthly contributions raised nearly \$15,000 for our residents showing the power of generosity and how every donation, regardless of size, impacts the lives of the students we serve. It's easy to sign up on our website, and your consistent contributions mean the world to us. Together, we can make our Nest a true home.



Scan Me to Learn More!



Thank You!

Adele Goldberg
Aileen Brown
Alanna Strong
Albert Olszewski
Alette Jackson
Alice Reedquist
Allen Chrisman
Allyson Bush
Amy & Eric May
Amy Williams
Anders Engdahl
Andrew & Kaylyn Lybeck
Andrew Paslawsky
Ann Fey
Anna Bengtson
Anna Coles
Anne Darling
Anne & Eric Oehlerich
Anne Scott-Markle
Anne Taylor
Aubrey Erickson
Aubrey Hanson
Audrey & Isaac Hyvonen
Barb Jefts
Barbara Boorman
Barbara Boyle
Barbara Hoyt
Barbara Jorck
Barbara Lewis
Barbara Norrell
Becky Hughes
Benjamin & Katherine Ward
Bet & Doug Wise
Beth Bart

Bethany Fruci
Betsy Bayne
Betty Rendahl
Bobbie Hafer
Bonnie & Darryl Olson
Brenda Carper
Brenda Duval
Brent Appelgren
Bret Luedke
Brett Svetlik
Brian Miller
Brian Tanko
Buck & Mary Love
Burt Wheeler
C Petruzzelli
Madison Deitz
Cameron Blake
Carie Kelleher
Carla Hannaford
Carley Iverson
Carol Beaudion
Carol Norwood
Cathryn McDevitt
Cathy Calloway
Charles & Rachel Potter
Charles McCarty
Charlotte Rahn
Cheryl King
Chester Woodruff
Chip Andrews
Chris A. Clouse
Chris Jolly
Christie Long
Christopher Ridder

Chuck Cameron & Vita Wright
Cindy Holm
Cindy Tudhope
Clare LaMeres
Janet Clark
Coleen & Gerald Perdue
Connie Ambrose
Constance Cowett
Craig McIntyre
Cynthia Granmo
Dan & Amy Chisholm
Dan & Ann Fagre
Dan & Kate Cassidy
Darci & Randy Iola
Darleen Frishkorn
Dave List
David Ford
David Girardot
David Gordon
David Trousdale
Dawn Suttentfield
DC Lutes
Dean Robbins
Debbie Snyder
Deborah Sapp
Denise Seehusen
Denise VanArtsdale
Denise Vernon
Devonna Morgan
Dezerae Hoppe
Diane Myslicki
Don & Janan Beller
Doug & Barbara Nelson
Doug & Kathy Law



Thank You!

Doug Dolan
Dr. Connie Small
Duywane Gardner
Ed & Sue Lieser
Edith Kaps
Edward and Dana Leech
Elaine Kauffman
Elise Anderes
Elizabeth Saltonstall
Ellen Johanson
Enola Terry
Eric & Katrina Nygaard
Erik Jacobson
Farrah Ellsworth
Fay Wolf
Frederick Nazarian
Gail Sullivan
Gayle Brown
George Lafemina
George Losleben
Gerard Nolan
Glen L & Becky Fulton
Glenda & Richard Gehri
Greenup-Martin
Greg Garrison
Gregory Kasper
Hal Trost
Hayley Scheel
Helen & Larry Cates
Helen Hindersman
Henry & Susan Ricklefs
Jack Biddle
Jack McFarland
Jim & Deann Lehner
James & Betty Thompson

Jim & Deann Lehner
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Jane Nolan
Janet Mayo
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Janiece Hamilton
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Jean Wix
Jeff Mow
Jennifer Graham
Jerry & Judy Elwood
Jessica Braband
Jim Brien
Jim Marino
Joan Gregg
Joel A Nelson
Joel & Chantel Pemberton
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John & Jill Gardner
John & Julie Hankinson
John & Linda Erfle
John & Lois Cummings
John Goode
John Graves
John Gunnerson
John Hoadland
John Kalbfleisch

John Lacey
John Hoadland
John Kalbfleisch
John Lacey
John O'Donnell
John Repke
Jon Kaps
Joyce Hrouda
Judith Marcin
Judy Lund
Judy Lust
Judy Ross
Julie Baldridge
Julie Berquist
Julie Helbach
Julie Rommel
Karen Black
Karen Heuscher
Kate Kendall
Kathy Britton
Kathy Menghini Shanahan
Kathy Peltier
Katiera & Francisco Rivera
Kaye Haller
Kelli Gillingham
Kendra Hope
Kenneth Donnelly
Kenneth Firebaugh
Kim & Patti Codiga
Kim Puckett
Kim Richards
Kimberly Watson
Klaus & Annegret Pfeifer
Kristi Zorb
Kurt & Carol Larson



Thank You!

Lance Spooner
Larry Williams
Laura Garbacz
Laura Peschel
Laurence Kossak
Laurie Lapan
Laurie Opatz
Lawrence Whittington
Lazette Abell
Leif & Carole Erickson
Leland & Betsy Scifers
Leo Stoltz
Leslie Windauer
Linda Almquist
Linda Chauner
Linda Cornutt
Lisa Nolan
Liz & David Lippoff
Liz Seabaugh
Lois McClaren
Loren & Michele Hansen
Loretta & Gerard Byrd
Lori Giardina
Lori Hurst
Lorne Kermath
Lorri Evans
LuAnn & Joseph Basirico
Lucy Smith
Luther Campbell
Malcolm Coote
Marcia Bumke
Marcia O'Neil
Marcia Sheffels
Margaret Satchell

Maria Drey
Marilyn Eberly
Marjorie Wilson
Mark Delorme
Mark Mees
Mark Schmidt
Martin Miller
Mary Ann Manning
Mary Anne Miles
Mary Behrendt
Mary Dubay
Mary Huston
Mary Jane Westermarck
Mary Jean Naglich
Mary Jo & Reed Gunlikson
Mary Jo Look
Mary Lloyd
Mary Notess
Mary Olstad-Hanson
Mary Pannell
Mary Witbrod
Matt & Ellen Moran
Matthew & Tara Brister
Matthew Benedict
Maureen Casey
Maureen Ellinger Farmer
Maureen McGough
Mayla Stuftt
Megan McFadden
Melissa Clark
Merle Cowell
Merna Terry
MerryLynn Southers
Mic & Patti Holmes

Michael & Sharon Poehling
Michael & Wendy Lauman
Michael Graham
Michael P. Sterry
Michael Righetti
Michael Sherman
Michele Irelan
Mike & Cindy Galvin
Mobley Blake
Mona Charles
Nancy Brekke
Nancy Crans
Nancy Cronin
Nancy Ebeltoft
Nancy Tighe
Necile Miller
Neil Hanson
Nels Broste
Norma Linsky
Norman L. Kuennen
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Pamela Haglund
Patricia Jaquith
Patricia Lewis
Patricia Sollie
Patrick & Natalie Cooney
Paul Jeremiassen
Paul Lamb
Penni & Dean Chisholm
Percy Laube & Joan Ridell
Peter & Karen Saunders
Peter Fennelly
Phyllis & Randy Sprunger
Randi Colby



Thank You!

Randi Siu
Randolph Kosted
Randy & Jim Mohn
Ray Thompson
Raymon Leopold
Rayne (Anita) Beach
Rhona Meislik
Ric Anderson
Richard & Carol Atkinson
Richard & Jane Solberg
Richard Gordon
Richard Kinonen
Rita Braun & Charles Stearns
Robert Kappes
Robert Nowak
Robert Pearce
Robert Strobbe
Roderick Hines
Roger & Peggy Newman
Ronald Gerson
Ronald Miller
Rose Todd
Roy & Debbie Teal
Russ & Julie Heaton
Rusty Wells
Ryan Fuller
Sally Johnson
Sam Kavanagh
Samuel & Ruth Neff
Sandi Lynch
Sandra W Boyce
Sandy Koness
Sandy Schellinger
Scott Bolster
Scott Janni

Selma Sotolongo
Shannon Bradshaw
Sharlot Battin
Shaun McChesney
Shawn Watts
Shelbi Bowersox
Shelly Arbuckle
Shirley & Kenneth Powell
Shirley Trent
Stephen and Carla Bruce
Steve & Carol McGuire
Steve & Edna Upton
Steve & Ginny Gist
Steve & Lindsay Manaras
Steve Oswald
Steve Peters
Steve Whisler
Steven Mineer
Sue Harding
Sue M Carstens
Sue Roling
Sukey Pfirman
Susan Abell
Susan Brown
Susan Fletcher
Susan Garside
Susan K Foster
Susan Kola
Suzanne Booker
Tanya Wiseman
Tawnya Cramer
Teresa Quinn
Terry & Dennis Divoky
Terry & Sally Welder
Terry Oboyle

Thomas and Louise Bannigan
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Thomas Carlson
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Tom and Marcie Briney
Tracy Osla
Trixie Gavelek
Twila Brenneman
Tyler Corpron
Valerie Parsons
Vassilis & Austine Siomos
Walter Rowntree
Wayne and Lois Marshall
Wendy Reordan
Wendy Seguire
Will & Bonnie Smith
Will & Kris Brock
William & Mary Lepper
William & Molly Hobgood
William & Sarah Dakin
William Smith
William Yankee
Zoe Gustafson

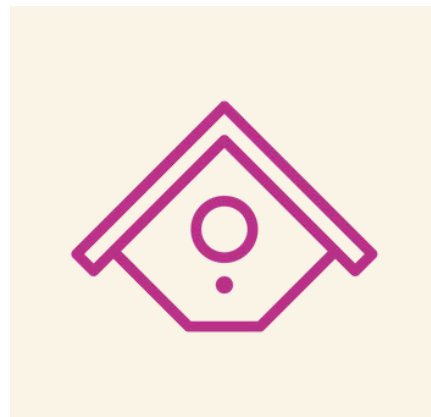
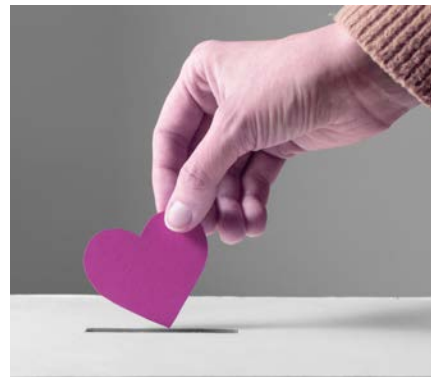
Service Clubs

14060 Knights of Columbus
N.A.L.C.
Rotary Club of Kalispell



Supporting Businesses

Abruzzo Italian Kitchen
Anderbeck INC
Backslope Brewing
Big Sky Land Improvements Inc
Bulldog Saloon
Clyde & Bonnies Family Beauty & Barber
Ceres Bakery
Custom Tiny Homes of Montana
Denman Construction Inc
Flathead Electric
Flathead Livestock Sale Organization
Frampton Purdy Law Firm
Glacier Bank
Harmon Crane and Rigging
Hidden Moose Lodge
J & A Incorporated
Kalispell Lights
Kalispell Property Management
Kimble Drywall Inc
LHC incorporated
McGough & Company, Inc.
Melem Inc
Payne West
Sage & Cedar
Stumptown Snowboard
Tamarack Cannabis
Tanko Law Firm
The UPS Store #2029
Top Copy Printing
Whitefish Credit Union
Whitefish Goldsmiths
Wittfork



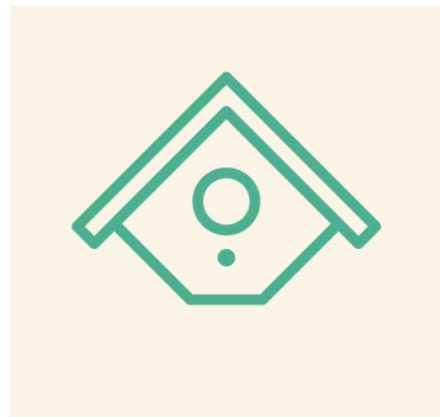
Supporting Foundations

AGL Foundation Fund at WCF
Ahavah DAF
Baracker Flynn Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation America
Flathead Rotary Community Foundation
Ila B. Dousman Fund Inc.
Kiita Foundation
Montana Community Foundation
Oro Y Plata
Rediger Family Foundation
Renaissance Charity Foundation
Schlinger Family Foundation
Schwab Charitable Foundation
Sinsinawa Dominicans Inc.
Tamarack Foundation Inc.
The Angora Ridge Foundation
The Cobb Foundation
The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena, Inc.
The Springer Family Trust
Whitefish Mountain Resort Fund
Whitefish Community Foundation
William T and Susana D Huston Family Foundation
Woodhouse Family Foundation



Churches

Bethany Lutheran Church
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Christian Women's Fellowship
Church of Creston
Community United Methodist Church
Cross Roads Christian Fellowship
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Presbyterian Women
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary
Saint John Paul II Catholic Council of Catholic Women
St Richards Council of Catholic Women
St. Matthews Parish
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church





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