

Special Section

NONPROFITS

a guide to giving

“By what you get, you make a living; what you give, however, makes a life.” – Arthur Ashe

In this special section, Explore Big Sky is honoring not-for-profit organizations in our region. The idea is to remind us to give, and that these charitable groups give their time, work and love to a cause they believe in.

This is the second Guide to Giving nonprofit issue. We made the first one last November to critical acclaim, and realized none of us can be reminded too frequently that we live not to take, but to give.

“We believe in the mission,” said Eleanor Barker, executive director for the nonprofit Children’s Museum of Bozeman. “And the reason

there are so many nonprofits in the area is that there are so many worthy missions.”

EBS has included a number of these worthy vocations in the following pages. Feel free to contact any of the nonprofit agencies here to volunteer your time or to donate. As part of our community, each of these charities needs our support.

“[Nonprofits] are a vital component to our community,” Barker said. “A conduit for community members to move the needle on issues that are important to them.”

Take your time perusing this nonprofit section. Then give your time to one of these stellar organizations. – *Joseph T. O’Connor*



Big Sky Bird Rescue

Big Sky Bird Rescue is a nonprofit organization (501 (c)(3) application pending) dedicated to the rescue, refuge and rehabilitation of orphaned, sick or injured wild birds for their eventual release back into their natural habitat.

BSBR promotes responsibility and respect for living beings and the environment by building community awareness, involvement and education.

The organization specializes in songbird rescue, but also facilitates the placement of waterfowl and raptors in rehabilitation centers including Helena's Flyaway Foundation and Bozeman's Montana Raptor Conservation Center, BSBR's fiscal sponsor.

As BSBR awaits final approval from state and federal agencies for wildlife rehabilitation permits, the group is working with other organizations to ensure that all birds brought in receive proper care.

Most of the birds BSBR sees are brought in by concerned community members who found the birds orphaned or displaced from their nests; injured by cars or windows; illegally shot; poisoned; or sick and unable to fly.

Many "finders" unsuccessfully seek help for the bird through a number of avenues before reaching BSBR. Early identification and capture of an injured bird is critical to its successful rehabilitation.

This rehabilitation process ranges from short-term refuge to involved medical procedures or surgery, followed by months of post-surgical rehab. The BSBR facility provides 24-hour, hands-on care,



Sennents: Baby nighthawks rescued and released by Big Sky Bird Rescue. PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY JOHNSEN

which Executive Director Mava Hurd believes is the reason for the organization's above average, successful release rate of more than 60 percent.

This spring, BSBR will launch an awareness campaign about how to find help for injured birds.

Big Sky Bird Rescue is supported by George and Kym Rapier. BSBR needs public financial support as well as many items including game meat, towels and sheets. To donate or volunteer to help with bird care, or if you find a bird in need of help, call (406) 993-9303 or (908) 247-1477. Visit bigskybirdrescue.com for more information.



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Arts Council of Big Sky



In 1988, a group of like-minded Big Sky residents came together with an idea: to bring world-class arts and music to the growing resort community.

That summer, the Miami New World Symphony performed in the Meadow Village, and the following year the organization – then called the Big Sky Association for the Arts – was granted federal nonprofit status.

Now called the Arts Council of Big Sky, the group is celebrating its 25th anniversary of bringing music and arts to the mountains. What started as a purely volunteer-driven group is now a full-fledged dynamic organization with one full time and two part time staff members, along with a dedicated board and volunteer base.

This summer, ACBS will bring 13 events to Big Sky – all but one of them free – and programming is continually expanding to meet the needs of this burgeoning mountain community.

Over the years, ACBS has supported the Big Sky community in a number of ways, including purchasing instruments for Ophir School’s string program, and inviting artists to the school for uplifting and inspiring performances for the next generation.

ACBS also produced two sold-out concerts at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center this winter and held an art auction that generated more than \$50,000 in original artwork sales – something unprecedented in Big Sky. Next December, the organization is bringing Montana Ballet’s “Nutcracker” to Big Sky.

The Arts Council is proud of what’s been accomplished in the past 25 years, and is excited for the future, said ACBS Director Brian Hurlbut.


To be a part of that future – whether by making a donation, joining the board of directors, or volunteering – please call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.

The Arts Council of Big Sky is supported by Creighton Block Gallery.



Jason Isbell performing at last summer’s Music in the Mountains summer concert series. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

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Big Sky Community Corporation



Big Sky Community Corp.'s mission is to promote, acquire, preserve and maintain land, parks, trails and easements for use by the Big Sky community and the general public.

BSCC manages 83 acres of public parkland and more than 13 miles of public trails.

A number of community-driven programs and committees have formed under the BSCC umbrella including the Big Sky Tennis Association, Camp Big Sky, Crail Ranch Conservators, Big Sky Softball League, Big Sky Disc Golf League, Big Sky Natural Resource Council, Big Sky Parks Committee, and Big Sky Trails Committee.

BSCC programs operate primarily through dedicated volunteers and donors, allowing the organization to offer a variety of recreational opportunities and

programming that serve Big Sky residents and visitors.

BSCC is working on a number of exciting projects for summer 2014.

The group will begin with construction on five miles of new trails near Big Sky Town Center and will continue to map a route for an additional three miles of trail to be built in summer 2015. The Community Park will host a record number of softball players this year, as well as several new team sports including flag football and kickball.

The Big Sky Natural Resource Council is heading a Bear Smart effort to educate residents and visitors, and manage human-bear conflicts in Big Sky. Camp Big Sky is expanding to accommodate a wider age group and co-hosting school productions with Big Sky Broadway. Online registration for camp will be offered on the BSCC website in mid-May.



BSCC: BSCC events and recent projects at Big Sky Community Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF BSCC

In addition, Crail Ranch plans to build a new structure on their property, and will host tours on weekends throughout the summer.

Big Sky Community Corp. is supported by Big Sky Resort. Visit bsccmt.org to learn more information.



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Blue Water Task Force



The Blue Water Task Force is a local nonprofit dedicated to protecting and preserving the health of the Gallatin Watershed. In order to accomplish this, BWTF runs four programs: Community Water Quality Monitoring, Water Resource Assessment, Watershed Restoration, and Community Education.

Under the Community Water Quality Monitoring program, volunteers have been collecting and analyzing water quality and aquatic insects in the Gallatin Watershed since 2000. The data is used to assess and track the health of the Gallatin River and its tributaries.

Digging a bit deeper, the Water Resource Assessment program conducts more in-depth scientific assessments in the watershed, aiming to answer questions such as, "How healthy is the river?" and, "Are there areas of the watershed that could be restored to improve its condition?"

Through the Watershed Restoration program, BWTF is tackling water quality problems found through these monitoring and assessment programs. Projects slated for the upcoming year include, among oth-



BWTF volunteers collecting water quality data in April to assess and track the health of the Gallatin River. PHOTO BY BWTF DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

ers: restoration on the Upper West Fork to reduce nitrogen and algae; improvements to river access sites in the Gallatin Canyon; installation of the community stormwater conservation garden at Ophir School; and the Trout-Friendly Landscaping program.

Tying it all together, the Community Education program aims to educate

the public on local water resource issues. BWTF strives to cultivate a community that protects and preserves the Gallatin River's health.

Summer Events:

July 2: Wild and Scenic Designation discussion followed by DamNation, a film that chronicles a growing movement to tear down obsolete dams

July 26-27: The Big Sky Fly Fishing Festival

BWTF is supported by L&K Real Estate. More information on these events as well as volunteer opportunities, water reports and real-time stream flow data is available at bluwatertaskforce.org.



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Children's Museum of Bozeman



The Children's Museum of Bozeman enriches the community by engaging children and adults in the magic of shared learning and discovery. Founded in 2001, CMB has grown into one of the city's main museum attractions and is visited by more than 20,000 children and families each year.

"We offer tremendous hands-on learning opportunities for kids of all ages and their families," said Eleanor Barker, the museum's executive director. "Exhibits like the Bernoulli Blower, the Bubble Builder and the Magnetic Marble Run are always popular with the little ones, and this year we're launching STEAMlab, a cutting-edge, educational lab for older kids interested in high-tech tools and materials."

The museum offers daily programs, after school clubs, summer science camps, and family-friendly activities throughout the

year. "With the support of this generous community, our museum can be a beacon for children and families for many years to come," Barker said.

The Children's Museum of Bozeman is supported by Penny Lane Home Builders. Visit cmbozeman.org or call (406) 522-9087 for more information.



Exploring the complex properties of soap bubbles at the Children's Museum of Bozeman. PHOTO BY LAURA PRINDIVILLE

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Laney needed someone in her life who could act as a friend, a mentor and a sibling figure. She's a very mature little girl and just needs someone to be a kid with.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters' Big Sky branch was lucky enough to have Blythe Beaubien apply as a Big Sister and instantly knew she and Laney would be a perfect match. Upon their first meeting, they were fast friends and already talking about ideas for weekly outings.

They've been matched for eight months now and have enjoyed

cooking classes, ice skating and skiing, but most of all they love a nice cup of hot chocolate together.

"[It's been] very rewarding," Beaubien said. "Laney is a ray of sunshine and I truly enjoy spending time with her each week."



Big Brothers, Big Sisters is supported by Lone Pine Builders and The Fairways at Big Sky. Contact Jolene Clark at (406) 855-6544 or jolene.clark@bbbs-gc.org for more information. BBBS is currently taking applications for both mentors and students at bbbs-gc.org.

Eagle Mount Bozeman

Since 1982, Eagle Mount Bozeman has been bringing freedom, strength and joy to children with cancer and people living with disabilities.

Through therapeutic and adaptive recreation, and with the help and support of a generous community, Eagle Mount provides a world of adventures - skiing, horseback riding, swimming, camping, rock climbing, kayaking, cycling, fishing and more.

Set under the beauty of Montana's legendary big sky, the nonprofit focuses on people's abilities, while gently supporting their disabilities.

Founders General Robert C. Mathis, USAF (ret.), and his wife, Greta Gay

Mathis, envisioned a place where people with disabilities could enjoy Montana's recreational opportunities.

Inspired by the courage, patience, and determination of the people they served, the Mathises created not only recreational programs, but also a spirit of service that encourages able-bodied, skilled volunteers to assist those with special needs.

Eagle Mount is funded exclusively with private donations, and no one is ever turned away if they can't afford services.

Eagle Mount Bozeman is supported by Inn on the Gallatin. Visit eaglemount.org for more information.



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United Luv Project Inc.

United Luv Project Inc. is a nonprofit organization started by a young man during his battle with cancer, and its mission is to provide iPads for patients to use while undergoing treatment.

Ryan Eaton was diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma at age 25. Having spent countless hours in hospitals and treatment centers, Ryan quickly learned there were limited options to pass the time. He also realized many patients were fighting the battle alone, and felt that iPads could help.



Patients use the iPads to connect with friends and family, or simply to pass the time, taking their minds off what's going on around them.

Ryan lost his battle with cancer in 2013, but his family continues to carry on his mission. United Luv Project Inc. has placed

over 130 iPads into the hands of cancer patients throughout Montana.

United Luv Project Inc. is supported by Pella Windows and Doors. Visit unitedluv.com or facebook.com/unitedluv for more information.

Big Sky Rotary Club



The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

The Big Sky Rotary Club is supported by Nordic Hot Tub. Visit clubrunner.ca/bigsky for more information.

Morningstar Learning Center



Morningstar Learning Center's mission is to fill a critical void in Big Sky's basic community infrastructure by providing quality, affordable care in a place-based learning environment through preschool and daycare programs. As the only full-time, year-round licensed childcare provider in Big Sky, Morningstar serves the needs of more than 50 families and provides support to more than 30 local businesses.

Morningstar Learning Center is supported by Anderson Enterprises. Visit morningstarlearningcenter.com for more information.



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Head Volunteer, Janie Izzo at BSBR, comforts a sick baby crow



Baby cowbird, magpie and robin - three of the 40 baby birds that BSBR helped to raise and release back into the wild last year

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We are busily preparing for baby season and need a number of supplies you may have on hand or services you may be able to provide.

our wish list:

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Bird seed
Towels
Sheets
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SERVICES

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Building perches
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Bird photography
Power washing

Outlaw Partners (publisher of this newspaper) supports these nonprofits, among others.

Big Sky Youth Empowerment



The Big Sky Youth Empowerment Project Inc. was incorporated in 2001 to meet the demand for creative programs targeting high school-aged, at-risk youth. Founded by Pete MacFadyen (avid snowboarder, fly fisherman, and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor), his frustrations with traditional counseling models provided a catalyst for the creation of BYEP. byep.org

Jack Creek Preserve Foundation



The Jack Creek Preserve Foundation is dedicated to giving people a deep appreciation for the importance of conserving wildlife and their habitat by providing a wide array of educational opportunities focused on the positive values of wildlife management, land stewardship and hunter conservationists. jackcreekpreserve.org

HAVEN



HAVEN is committed to reducing the incidence and minimizing the impact of domestic abuse on families and communities. The group provides emergency shelter, crisis intervention, ongoing support, referrals, and education. havenmt.org

Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter



The mission of Heart of the Valley Inc. is to compassionately shelter the lost and surrendered pets of Gallatin and Madison valleys, and to enhance the lives of people and companion animals through pet adoption and education. heartofthevalleyshelter.org

American Prairie Reserve



Our mission is to create and manage a prairie-based wildlife reserve that, when combined with public lands already devoted to wildlife, will protect a unique natural habitat, provide lasting economic benefits and improve public access to, and enjoyment of, the prairie landscape. americanprairie.org

Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center



The Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center helps support the GNFAAC through fundraising and education efforts. mtavalanche.com

Gallatin Roller Girlz



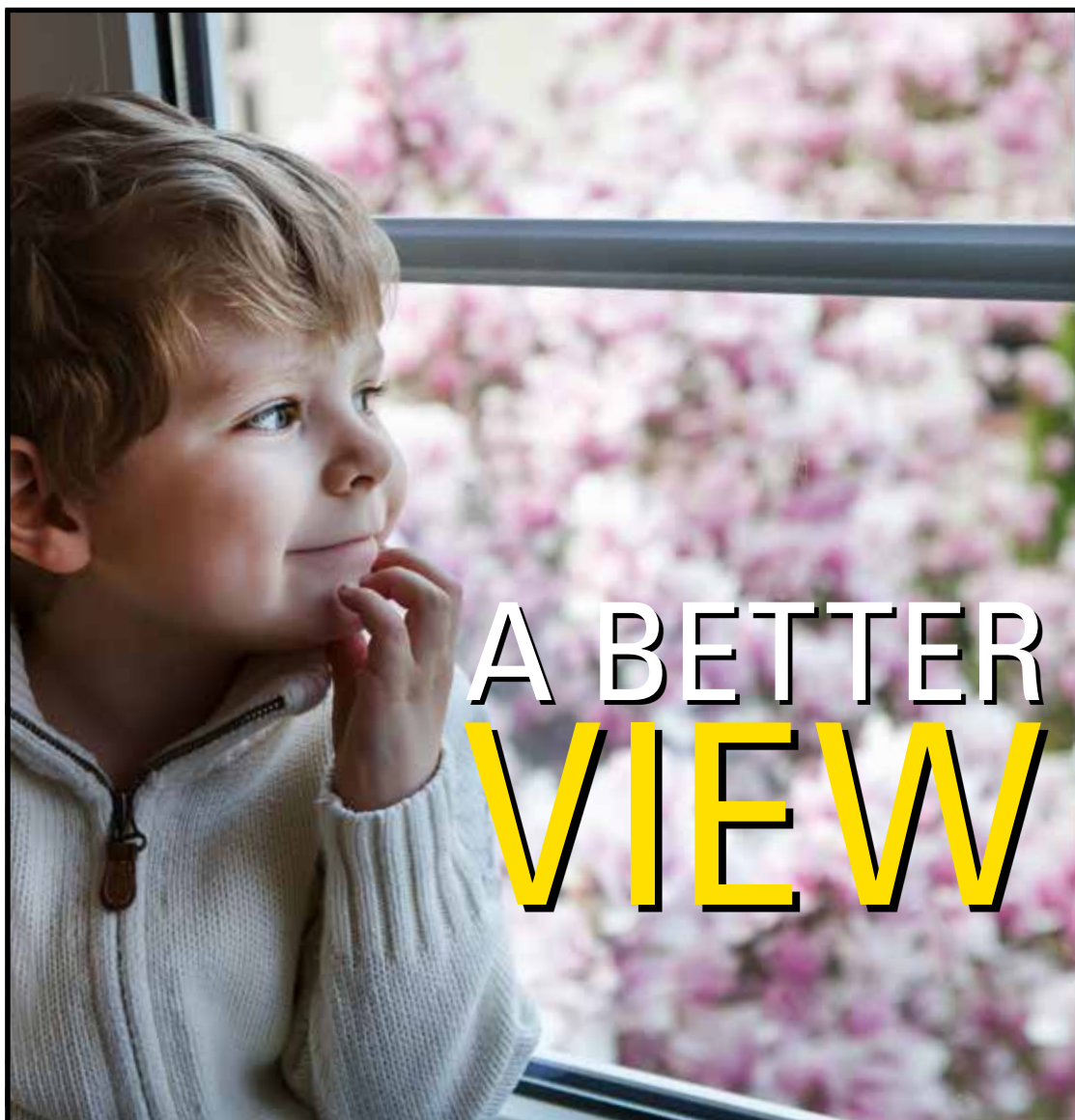
Our mission is to empower individuals through the sport of roller derby. Through intensive training, competitive activities, and community involvement, Gallatin Roller Girlz strives to embody specific core values, including hard work, motivation, perseverance, respect for cultural diversity, and continuous personal development. grgderby.com

Bozeman Deaconess Health Services



Bozeman Deaconess Hospital is a Joint Commission accredited, licensed Level III trauma center, located in Gallatin County. The organization's mission is to improve community health and quality of life. By

2016, BDHS hopes to be a leading integrated health system, ranked in the top 10 percent in the nation. bozemandeaconess.org



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