

December 2017

## From Jen's Desk

Happy Holidays friends!

Thanks to you, 2017 has been one for the books for our nation and for WFM. Here are just a few of our achievements this year:



1. **Grew PowerHouse Montana**, our online resource for women to connect with mentors and resources, to 390 mentors! You can find it at [www.powerhousemt.org](http://www.powerhousemt.org).
2. **Launched our new Pipeline to Leadership** for Montana women, to connect women to positions of leadership in government and the private sector.
3. Hosted Ayana Ledford of PROGRESS at Carnegie Mellon in Bozeman in September and **trained more than 200 women how to negotiate** at MSU-Bozeman and the Athena Women's Leadership Conference.
4. **Served more than 3,870 women and girls (the most ever!)** through our programming and grants to amazing non-profits across the state. Projects include job training, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for girls, wage-negotiation workshops for women, and policy work to increase access to paid leave for women.
5. Worked with partners to support legislative solutions to increase **paid leave** for family members who need time off to care for their children, parents and others, as well as paycheck fairness for women.

We know that our work toward equity for women is far from over. But this year we gained some serious momentum.

Want to help us continue to grow our impact? **Your gift to the Women's Foundation of Montana in support of advancing women's economic independence today will work hard to**

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[www.wfmontana.org](http://www.wfmontana.org)

STAY IN TOUCH



grow the PowerHouse, fund vital research about the economic status of Montana women, support training and services for Montana women entrepreneurs, and fund STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programs for Montana girls.

**Give before December 31st and your gift will be doubled by a generous donor!**

Thank you for all you do in support of growing a brighter future for Montana women and girls. Can't wait to see what 2018 brings!

Onward!



Jen Euell  
Program Director

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## Welcome Maggie!

Please join us in welcoming Maggie!

Margaret 'Maggie' Sullivan is a 5th-Generation Montanan, born and raised in Helena. She has recently graduated from the University of Montana - where she received honors for her degree in English (Creative Writing), coupled with a Minor in Women's Studies.

An advocate for Montana's future, she is driven by her desire to give back to local communities, specifically through connecting Montana women and girls to resources and leadership opportunities.

When not working toward this, Maggie indulges her other lifelong passion of endurance-cycling. She specializes in Montana tours, sometimes up to 225-miles over two days! Maggie loves engaging rural communities, and furthering women's access and participation in athletics. With the 2017 cycling season in the books, she's looking forward to her next 135+ mile tour near Libby in the Spring.

Maggie will be coordinating the PowerHouse website, activities and communications. Give her a call with your brilliant ideas and questions at (406) 541-7409.



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## Grantee Spotlight: YWCA Missoula GRIT Project

The GRIT (Girls Representing In Trades) Program of the YWCA Missoula launched last January, aiming to break down long-standing gender barriers in male-dominated occupations by exposing girls to trades, such as auto mechanics, carpentry and welding. "GRIT gives girls more power and more confidence", says GRIT participant, Erin, "Girls can do work just like boys. They have the power to do it too." GRIT organizers say the program breaks down lingering stereotypes, while it grows Montana's workforce, now facing a dire shortage of skilled laborers.



For WFM, funding GRIT is a win-win-win as it works to prepare girls for high paying careers, while building their skills and confidence, and smashing the stereotypes that hold women back. GRIT is

one of six STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Girls' Projects WFM funded across Montana in 2017, as we work to create a strong network of programs, sharing best practices and resources, while collaborating to achieve greater impact.

WFM is thrilled to support this effort, providing STEAM learning opportunities to hundreds of Montana girls each year!

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## Pipeline to Leadership: Featured Opportunities

The Women's Foundation of Montana launched our new Pipeline to Leadership Project this summer. The new project uses the WFM's online platform, [PowerHouse Montana](#), to match women with opportunities to advance in both the public and private spheres.



**POWERHOUSE  
MONTANA**

*of the Women's Foundation of Montana*

In addition, we will be providing featured leadership opportunities in our email newsletters monthly. Here are some opportunities for you!

### **Board of Public Accountants**

**Description:** *Board is charged with licensing and regulating persons and businesses engaged in accounting professions and occupations.*

**Position:** Certified Public Accountant

**Commitment:** Moderate (meets about 6 times a year in Helena)

**Website:** [http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd\\_boards/pac\\_board/board\\_page.asp](http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/pac_board/board_page.asp)

### **Commission on Community Service**

**Description:** *Commission supports community-based volunteer programs focused on addressing critical community needs. Vision includes a Montana of healthy, vibrant communities where individuals are empowered to strengthen communities through service and volunteerism.*

**Position(s):** Two Public Representatives, open on background

**Commitment:** Moderate (meets a couple of times yearly, and also asks you to be involved in your local community)

**Website:** <http://serve.mt.gov>

### **State Emergency Response Commission**

**Description:** *Commission creates and implements the state hazardous material incident response team, and collects and disseminates information relating to emergency response.*

**Position:** Representative of the Insurance Industry (working in insurance industry or for an insurance organization)

**Commitment:** Light (except in cases of emergency!)

**Website:** <http://readyandsafe.mt.gov/Emergency/SERC>

### **Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners**

**Description:** *Board is charged with licensing and regulating persons and businesses engaged in respiratory care professions and occupations.*

**Position:** Member of the public who is not a member of a health care profession.

**Commitment:** Low-Moderate (meets approximately 3-4 times a year in Helena)

**Website:** <http://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/rcp>

### **Committee on Telecommunications Access for Persons with Disabilities**

**Description:** *Oversight board to the Montana Telecommunications Access Program and Montana Relay, which were set up to ensure that Montanans who are Deaf, Deaf/Blind, Hard-of-Hearing, Speech or Mobility impaired are able to use traditional telecommunications equipment and services.*

**Position:** Member who is not disabled, engaged in a business, other than the telecommunications industry.

**Commitment:** Low (meets 1-2 times a year)

**Website:** <http://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/mtap>

Interested in joining the Pipeline to Leadership? Join the [PowerHouse](#) and then tell us how you want to step up and lead!

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# Get Involved in 2018!

## 2018 PowerHouse: Montana Impact Survey - Share your Opinion!

In preparation for 2018, we've put together a simple (10 Question) survey - geared towards growing our PowerHouse Montana initiative to better serve YOU. As special thank you, upon successful completion of this survey, you will have the option of entering to win a \$25.00 Etsy Gift Card! [We'd love to hear your thoughts.](#)

## Become a PowerHouse: Montana Blog or Instagram Contributor:

Are you a writer/blogger, photographer, entrepreneur, or someone looking to engage their community through education and leadership? Our 2018 PowerHouse Sign-Ups are now open!

Become a part of the PowerHouse Montana movement today by discussing, sharing, and promoting topics central to the betterment of Montana's women and girls.

### Sign-Up Below:

[Blog Contributor Sign-Up](#) | [Instagram Takeover Sign-Up](#)

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## WFM Around the State

No PowerHouse Events in December, but join us in 2018 for more opportunities to connect with your PowerHouse crew!

### Monday, January 22nd

PowerHouse: Billings @ 6:00pm  
Wise Wonders Children's Museum,  
110 N 29th Street,  
Billings, MT 59101

### PowerHouse: Wolf Point @ 6:00pm

Sherman Inn,  
200 E Main Street,  
Wolf Point, MT 59201

### Thursday, January 25th

PowerHouse: Flathead @ 4:00pm  
Location: TBA



*Interested in Hosting your own PowerHouse Meet-Up? Contact Maggie Sullivan at [Maggie@mtcf.org](mailto:Maggie@mtcf.org)*

[More Details About our Monthly PowerHouse: Montana Meet-Ups Here!](#)

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## Love WFM? Give a year-end gift today!

Your [gift](#) to the Women's Foundation of Montana in support of advancing women's economic independence will work hard to:

- Support our PowerHouse website, webinars, and trainings.
- Fund research about the economic status of Montana women.
- Support training and services for Montana women entrepreneurs.

- Fund STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programs for Montana girls.

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[Donate Now](#)

## ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MONTANA

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a component fund of the Montana Community Foundation working to grow the economic security of women and create a brighter future for girls in Montana. With a permanent endowment of more than \$1 million, the foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 to organizations improving the lives of women and girls in Montana.