

December 2018

## From Jen's Desk

As I was putting this month's e-newsletter together I noticed a thread that seems to run through all of the news we have to share with you.

### **Women investing in women.**

Whether you are reading about the BPW trailblazers who have raised and granted thousands of dollars of grants to Montana women entrepreneurs, or the Women's Giving Circle in Missoula that just gave out their first \$10,000 grant to the LEVL leadership project for low-income women, or WFM grantee, the Montana Business Women's Network, and their work to teach and support women business owners, you can't help but see the powerful impact of women investing in women.

I feel lucky every day to get to create a conduit that magnifies and focuses women's giving to create opportunities for women and girls to build a brighter future for themselves, their communities and Montana.

Thank you for investing in the best economic development strategy we've got.....women!

**Alone we can make powerful change happen.  
But together? We are unstoppable.**

**Happy Holidays!**



Jen Euell



### **Quick Links**

[Donate Today!](#)

[Sign-Up for eNews](#)

[Resources for Women](#)

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

STAY IN TOUCH



**P.S. Don't miss the 5 best reasons to support WFM's work this Holiday Season below!**

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## BPW Fund Leaves a Lasting Legacy

The Women's Foundation of Montana was pleased to be the recipient of a very generous \$80,000 addition to our endowed funds and grantmaking capacity in 2018! The Montana BPW (Business and Professional Women) Foundation has gifted the funds to WFM to create the new Montana BPW



Endowment Fund and continue their legacy of empowering women using "Resources from Montana women for Montana women."

The Foundation was started in 1993 by Lee Niebuhr, Jan Dobb, Shelly Marra, Faye James and Norma Boetel with a motto of "To Educate and Empower." It was their vision to create the foundation to be an instrument of change - helping Montana women attain their goals and become financially independent. They raised funds to create an endowment and began grantmaking in 2005. In early years, grants went to nonprofit programs educating and making positive change for Montana women. More recently, grants have gone to support women business owners directly through MTBPW's Shooting Stars Program. On average \$3,000 per year has been given out in \$1,000 grants to help women make an investment in education or purchases that significantly increase their capacity. Examples include funds to purchase new equipment such as a sewing machine or utility trailer, and funds to purchase software or create a new brand for a small business.

MTBPW Board Member, Penny Huntsberger, of Great Falls says, "It is so satisfying to know that we are helping Montana women to become financially independent and to follow their dreams. We are women supporting women."

WFM is thrilled to be able to continue the legacy and impact of the Montana BPW's grantmaking into the future.

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## Grantee Spotlight: Prospera Women's Business Center

WFM grantee and program partner, the Montana Women's Business Center (WBC) is a program of [Prospera Business Network](#) and provides training and support to help women establish, grow and sustain businesses throughout the state of Montana.

The Montana WBC is focused on providing confidential business counseling and training services to women entrepreneurs and is a critical resource to those who are economically or socially disadvantaged.

One remarkable woman entrepreneur supported by the WBC is Jessica Dehn of Dino Drop-In Childcare. With an eye to bringing quality parenting solutions to an area largely lacking in

affordable and convenient childcare, Jessica Dehn opened the Bozeman Dino Drop-In location with a small business loan in January of 2016. Less than a year later, she bought out her founding partner and opened a third location in Belgrade and Bozeman, Montana. With a goal to open 15+ locations by 2020 in high-growth rural cities, it appears Jessica is on a roll. To add to her success, Jessica won 2nd place in the SBA's national competition, InnovateHER, last year with a prize of giving her additional funding to launch new locations!



Jessica Dehn of Dino Drop-in Childcare, winner of an InnovateHER award.

The longtime childcare professional decided to start Dino Drop-In to accommodate the varied schedules of modern working parents. At Dino Drop-In, children from infancy through school age receive curriculum-based learning, without screens of any kind, in a safe and fun learning environment that is flexible and accessible for busy parents. Profitable after the second month of business, she credits her ability to stay positive to power through the ups and downs of opening a new business, especially during the period when she negotiated sole proprietorship of the business. Having conversations with her WBC business counselor as an intermediary during the ownership transition gave her the sounding board she needed to sail forward. "[Prospera and the WBC] added a third-party analysis that you can't see as a business owner in the process of starting a business." She added that, "If you've made the leap and been in a business for a month or two, then you are ready to work with Prospera and you will get tremendous value from the experience."

Your support of WFM is making economic independence a reality for women like Jessica. Thank you!

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## Missoula Giving Circle Announces First \$10,000 Grant

The Women's Foundation has been working with the Missoula Community Foundation over the last six months to build a new Missoula Women's Giving Circle. Members of the Circle presented a \$10,000 check on November 27 to

the [Missoula Food Bank and Community Center](#) for their program, [LEVL \(Lived Experience Voices and Leaders\)](#).

The Food Bank competed among 33 local nonprofits that serve women and children to receive the grant, the first-ever awarded by the newly formed Women's Giving Circle.

LEVL, which is designed and led by mothers experiencing poverty, breaks down barriers to participation in political and community processes and offers tools to help raise the voices of those not often represented.

The Women's Giving Circle plans to award two \$10,000 grants in 2019. If you are interested in participating, contact Jen at [jeneuell@mtcf.org](mailto:jeneuell@mtcf.org) to learn more.

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Missoula Women's Giving Circle presents \$10,000 to LEVL women's leadership project.

## WFM Around the State

Join us for one of our PowerHouse gatherings or another WFM sponsored or hosted event soon to connect with our smart network and work with us to advance Montana women!

**Monday, January 28th:**  
**MentorMondayMT! Locations TBA.**

**Friday and Saturday, February 8-9:**  
**[Women's Policy Leadership Institute](#),**  
**Helena**

If you are interested in statewide policy change work, this is the place to come network, learn and advocate. Don't miss your chance to make your voice heard!

**Saturday, February 23: [Girls For A Change Summit: Life Unscripted](#), MSU - Bozeman**

Geared toward girls in grades 8-12, this one-day, statewide Summit is an amazing opportunity for girls to connect, build skills and have fun!

**Save the Date for [The Athena Pack Conference](#), May 1 and 2 in Bozeman!**

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

Interested in Hosting your own PowerHouse Meet-Up? Contact Maggie Sullivan at

[Maggie@mtcf.org](mailto:Maggie@mtcf.org)

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Women's Policy Leadership Institute 2018.

# WFM Opportunity Roundup

## NeighborWorks Montana - Montana Homeownership Network

*Position:* Cooperative Housing Specialist

*Description:* NeighborWorks Montana is seeking a skilled project coordinator to be part of our Resident Owned Community (ROC) program team. This person will support residents of manufactured home communities as they work through the process of becoming owners of their communities. This person will also coordinate funding for and implementation of major sewer and water infrastructure projects, as well as small community improvement and engagement projects.

*Benefits Include:* Medical, Dental, Vision, Short Term Disability, and 401K, Paid Holiday, Vacation, Sick, and Personal Leave.

[Website](#)

Please submit application, resume and cover letter to Mary Jo White at [mwhite@nwmmt.org](mailto:mwhite@nwmmt.org) by 1/4/2019

## Prospera Business Network - Bozeman, Montana

*Position:* Grow with Google Trainer

*Description:* We are seeking an independent contractor to be the lead trainer and coordinator for our Grow with Google (GwG) training series launching in 2019. This adult-education program will offer up to nine training events directed towards business owners in communities throughout southwest Montana. The purpose of this training series is to have businesses increase the use and application of the features of the Grow with Google platform.

[Website](#)

## State of Montana Board, Council and Commission Openings, from the Office of the Governor - Statewide

*Position(s):* Check Out All the Available Listings! Aeronautics Board sounds particularly awesome!

[Website](#)

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## Top 5 Reasons to Support WFM This Giving Season!

1. The Women's Foundation of Montana is the only statewide fund dedicated to **advancing women's economic independence** and creating a brighter future for girls in our state!
2. WFM uses best practices and systemic change models to ensure our grants and programs are **increasing Montana women's income for a lifetime** and creating higher incomes for our daughters in the future.
3. When you give to WFM, your gift joins with others to **magnify your impact**.
4. Give before December 31st and **your gift will be matched** by a generous donor.
5. **Your gift makes you a super-shero for women's equity and opportunity!**

[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.