



WOMEN'S WIRE

Women's Foundation of Montana eNewsletter

September 2018

From Jen's Desk

In August we celebrated the 98th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. This anniversary is always a time to reflect on and be grateful for how far we've come and how hard our foremothers worked for the rights we enjoy today. Thank you sheros!

For the Women's Foundation, this year is particularly poignant as we celebrate 20 years since our own trailblazers conceived of and founded our organization. Without the vision of Merle Chambers and the foresight, resolve, and dedicated service of women like Letty Bass, Dorothy Eck, Ellen Alweis, Liz Marchi, Alyce Kuehn, Diane Sands, Sheila Rice and many other strong hearts and minds, the Women's Foundation would not exist. We were so pleased to celebrate these women this summer in Helena at our Trailblazer Celebration! Thank you Trailblazers!



It's easy to get bogged down and overwhelmed by the challenges we continue to face. But the truth is our challenges are small compared to those of our ancestors. If we allow ourselves to take a step back and truly see the long arc of justice play out over centuries, we can identify the truth....our collective work is not in vain. There will always be setbacks. But in this country, at this point in herstory, when a rapidly growing number of women set their will and dedicate their time and talents to making change happen....change is inevitable.

Thank you for being one of the doers who has taken your place leading the way to a brighter future for us all. Your hard work means there has never been more opportunity for Montana women and girls. This fall we are organizing even more ways for you to connect and influence the future of our state through Inclusive Innovation Conversations, PowerHouse Mentor Monday events and more. As always, so humbled to be in your brilliant company on the long road to equity.

Onward!

Jen Euell
Program Director

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STAY IN TOUCH



Inclusive Innovation in Big Sky Country

The Women's Foundation was pleased to host the inaugural Women's Innovation Summit in Fort Benton this June, bringing together bright minds from across Western Montana. Led by WFM Board Member, Jayne Morrow, our goal was to work together to envision how we might catalyze innovation in rural communities. More than 25 women worked to identify current barriers to innovation and opportunity in our state, and the changes that need to happen to break down those barriers.



Some initial takeaways were that there continue to be both institutional and cultural barriers to diversity and inclusion in leadership in Montana. Barriers include everything from the lack of invitation to the decision-making table, to lack of financial models that support inclusion, and lack of accessible childcare. However, we also recognize we have many assets, such as a wealth of social capital and a large community of smart and savvy women, dedicated to this work and ready to lead.

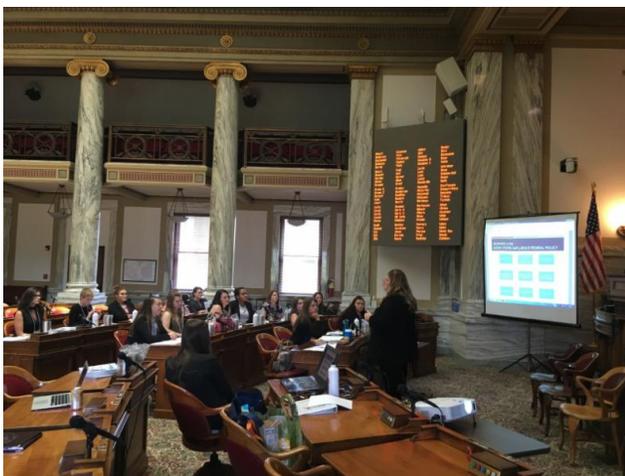
We are excited to continue to host this conversation across the state to ensure diverse voices are heard. Our next Inclusive Innovation Conversation will be a virtual one, as we invite our PowerHouse community to join in an online conversation on October 29th. We will also be organizing conversations in person in more communities across the state in coming months and are planning to release a report of our findings next spring. Interested in joining our online conversation or working with us to host one in your community? Contact Maggie Sullivan at maggie@mtcf.org.

WFM Announces \$40,000+ For Women and Girls

The Women's Foundation of Montana is celebrating our latest strategic investments in a brighter future for Montana women and girls!

The grants made include:

- Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming, Billings - \$5,787
- Girls Using Their Strengths (GUTS!) GRIT Project, YWCA Missoula - \$2,500
- AAUW Start Smart Trainings, Statewide - \$7,000
- Montana GEMS, Butte - \$4,600
- Montana NEW Leadership, Mansfield Center, University of Montana, Missoula - \$5,000
- Red Ants Pants Foundation, Girls Leadership Project, Statewide - \$7,000
- Girls Thrive, Girls Leadership Project, Helena - \$4,000
- Stevensville Community Center, Girls Computer Coding Project, Stevensville - \$3,000
- Montana Women Vote, Women's Policy Leadership Institute, Statewide - \$3,500
- Prospera Women's Business Center, Prospera Party, Bozeman - \$5,000



We are thrilled to invest in so many smart leaders, working for the benefit of women and girls in Montana. The new grant funding is focused on creating systemic change to improve the economic status of women, supporting initiatives that give girls the tools to be financially successful, and programs that improve women's economic security and equalize the pay gap. One great example is AAUW Montana, providing wage negotiation classes in colleges and universities across the state,

empowering women to negotiate for what they are worth in the job interview process and beyond. AAUW member and negotiation workshop trainer, Christina Roberts says, "I have had participants tell me that they were able to negotiate for an additional \$5,000 in their salary in the interview process after going through one of our workshops." Starting your career with an income that is \$5,000 higher, means hundreds of thousands of additional dollars over the course of your working life.

The foundation advisory board gave preference to programs that showed innovation, collaboration, and tangible, measurable results. The end result will be new opportunities for hundreds of Montana women and girls in financial education, leadership, entrepreneurship, wage-negotiation training and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programming.

THANK YOU for making these investments possible through your ongoing support!

Grantee Spotlight: 18 in 2018 with EPI

Last winter, a WFM grant made it possible for 18 Montana girls to participate in Ecology Project International's (EPI) 2018 STEM-based Yellowstone Winter Ecology Program, along with four female chaperones and three female instructors. Using Yellowstone National Park as their outdoor classroom, each of these women spent a week on snowshoes, partnering with National Park Service scientists to complete a rigorous science-focused academic program.



Each participant contributed directly to the Yellowstone National Park bison management team's 5-year study of ungulates through four hours of field data collection exploring how bison, elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep share the landscape and its resources. They also completed 20 hours of academic coursework in ecology and the scientific process.

One inspired EPI participant, Jaylyn from Corvallis, found herself a leader of her group when it came time to use her newly learned telemetry skills to track a mule deer. She was totally new to telemetry and had a great experience taking charge and leading her group to new locations. Jaylyn definitely wants to work with animals and wildlife in her career and says that this course helped her realize that "I have the leadership skills to do so."

Nearly half of girls interested in STEM don't know a STEM role model, and 40% say they don't get enough practical, hands-on experience. The Women's Foundation is working hard, with our program and grantee partners, to ensure that Montana girls have both the role models and experiences they need to envision and reach their highest potential.

Missoula Giving Circle and Grant Opportunity

WFM is thrilled to be a partner in the new Missoula Women's Giving Circle that launched this summer! The Circle is a diverse, dynamic and generous group of women engaged in an exciting venture of strategic philanthropy. Organized in partnership with the Missoula Community Foundation, we are collectively pooling the resources of at least 100 local women to leverage their modest gifts into \$10,000 grants for worthy local organizations! The Circle is being created by the members, and they will vote on who will receive funding. Interested in being a member? [Learn more here.](#)



The Giving Circle has just opened its' very first grant opportunity, and is inviting non-profit

organizations that serve women and/or children in Missoula County to apply for a \$10,000 grant. The deadline to apply is October 1st. You can find the details [here](#).

WFM Around the State

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

Smart Money, Financial Management 101 Online Webinar

**TOMORROW, Tuesday, September
18th at Noon, Register Today!**

Minnow Tank

Saturday, September 22nd at 5:00pm
Cottonwood Inn, 54250 US Hwy 2,
Glasgow

PowerHouse Billings

Monday, September 24 at 6:00pm
4570 Iron Horse Trail, Billings

PowerHouse Great Falls

Monday, September 24 at 6:00pm
Jakers Bar and Grill, 1500 10th Ave S., Great Falls

PowerHouse Helena

Wednesday, September 26th at 6:00pm
The Brewhouse, 939 Getchel St., Helena

PowerHouse Helena PowerLunch

Thursday, September 27th at Noon
The Hub, 314 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena

PowerHouse Wolf Point

Monday, September 24th at 5:30pm
The Sherman Inn, 200 E. Main St, Wolf Point

Helena Women's Leadership Network, BRAVE Leadership Conference

Friday, September 28th at 8:30am
Delta Hotels Helena Colonial, 2301 Colonial Dr, Helena

Women Leading Montana Convening

Monday, October 15th at 10:00am
Great Falls Civic Center, 2 S. Park Dr, Great Falls



Want to join the fun?

[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*

WFM Opportunity Roundup

Let us know if you apply for any of these positions - we'd love to highlight your success, and

State Banking Board

Description: Board makes final determinations on applications for new banks, acts in an advisory capacity on banking, and reviews the decisions on applications for the formation or closure of branch banks, sales of branch banks or the consolidation, merger, or relocation of banks and branch banks conducting hearings as required.

Position: Member of the public, who is not an officer, director, or shareholder of any state or national bank

Time Commitment: Low (Meets as needed, when there are applications for new banks, sometimes only once a year)

Takeaway: Members would learn the regulatory environment of banking in Montana and be instrumental to any new banks opening in the state.

Compensation: \$50/day and travel reimbursement

[Website](#)

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.

Positions: Community-Based Organization and 16-25 year old who is involved in a service, national or campus program

Time Commitment: Moderate (Meets 3-4 times a year)

Takeaway: Members get to be actively involved in the advancement of community service in the state, and support volunteers of all stripes across Montana.

Compensation: Travel costs only

[Website](#)

[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.