

\$300,000 in grants awarded

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The Whitefish Community Foundation set a new record high in giving to local nonprofits Nov. 3 at the annual grant awards presentation. More than \$300,000 was awarded to 74 different organizations — up \$60,000 from last year.

About 250 people were packed into the O'Shaughnessy Center for the ceremony. Music was provided by the Whitefish High School drumline and jazz band.

Grant awards ranged from \$500 to \$6,000 from the Foundation's Community Grants Fund, a competitive grant program. This year, 46 grants totaling \$110,000 was distributed from the Community Grants Fund. An additional \$190,000 was awarded from six of the Foundation's Donor-Advised Funds.

Funding for the Community Grants Fund comes from private donations, the annual Whitefish Duck Derby that raised \$45,000 for grants this year, the Summer Art Social, and interest from the Foundation's Permanent Endowment Fund.

Some organizations were awarded several grants from both the Community Grants Program and the Donor-Advised Funds. North Valley Food Bank received six grants totaling over \$23,500 while Whitefish Schools received more than \$19,500 in grants to help fund projects in music, science, wellness programs, mental health counseling, building renovation and more. Habitat for Humanity of the Flathead received a large grant from a Donor-Advised Fund for \$50,000. In all, more than 137 grants were awarded.

Board president Carol Atkinson presented the Great Fish Award to the Whitefish Community Library, Connie Heckathorn and Joey Kositzky. The Great Fish Award recognizes the value and service a local nonprofit and its director and staff provide to the community. New this year, the award came with a \$1000 grant. Previous recipients were Shepherd's Hand Free Clinic, DREAM Adaptive, North Valley Food Bank and Whitefish Theatre Company.

An annual award created in 2010 from the bequest to the Foundation by Doris Schumm a long-time board member was also awarded at the event. The Doris Schumm Community Spirit Award, which comes with a \$1,000 grant, was awarded to the Glacier Nordic Club. Surrey Schumm presented the award to the ski club.

For more information about the Whitefish Community Foundation, visit the website at www.whitefishcommunityfoudation.org or call Linda at 406-863-1781.

- Alpine Theatre Project, two new headsets
- Children's House Montessori School, funding for scholarships

- DREAM Adaptive Recreation Inc., needed equipment acquisition
- Family Forestry Expo, print workbooks for Expo field day
- Flathead Audubon Society, expand Conservation education program in Whitefish
- Flathead CARE, scholarships for Whitefish campers
- Flathead Spay and Neuter Task Force, new surgical packs
- Glacier Nordic Club, Ski-Doo Skandic V-800 Snowmobile/snow tires and tune-up for team van
- Glacier Symphony and Chorale, produce and present Festival Amadeus
- Glacier Twins, American Legion Baseball, new bus
- Great Northern Veteran's Peace Park, foundation gate/new signs/perimeter fence
- Hockaday Museum of Art, funding for Museum on the Move program to outreach to middle schools
- Human Therapy on Horseback, financial assistance to children and adults with disabilities
- Humane Society of Northwest Montana, IQAir HealthPro Plus Air Purifier/endowment
- Literacy Volunteers of Flathead County, purchase books and promotional for Whitefish
- NC Foundation, Student Assistance Program
- North Valley Food Bank, purchase food supplies/school supplies/"Sit Down Supper Hour"/Endowment
- North Valley Music School, new windows upstairs
- Northwest Montana Human Resources, aid for Project Homeless Connect
- Olney-Bissell School District, five Netpad computers
- Project Whitefish Kids, lawn mower from Iron Horse
- Samaritan House, provide tele-medical services so patients may speak to doctors/therapists over distance
- Shepherd's Hand Free Clinic, implement chronic care program
- Stumptown Art Studio, funding/Curriculum materials for youth art programs
- Tamarack Grief Resource Center, stabilize and grow grief support
- The Flathead Youth Home, sponsorship of the special activity "out & in" program
- Violence Free Crisis Line, provide children's services to those who witness abuse
- Whitefish Animal Group, sod placement/obstacle course/asphalt pathway
- Whitefish 7th and 8th grade football, five-man Oklahoma blocking chute
- Whitefish CARE, mentoring program

- The WAVE, scholarship program/purchase a pool lift
- Whitefish Community Center, new refrigerator for “Meals on Wheels”
- Whitefish Community Garden, electric installation
- Whitefish Community School, new refrigerator
- Whitefish Figure Skating Club, funding for Holiday Ice Show
- Whitefish High School science department, 12 advanced compound microscopes
- Whitefish Lake Institute, half the cost of a Hydrolab DS5 Multiprobe Sonde
- Whitefish Library Association, rebuild the library collection
- Whitefish Middle School and High School bands, specialists for group and semi-private lessons
- Whitefish Review, community literary events
- Whitefish Rotary Charitable Fund, provide Christmas gifts for underprivileged children in Whitefish School District
- Whitefish School District, quality schools matching grant, seeking to match funds for Quality Schools Project Grant
- Whitefish School District band program, two timpani (23” and 32”)
- Whitefish Shines , Christmas lighting
- Whitefish Theatre Co., outreach to school children, senior citizens, and those with special needs.
- Whitefish Youth Soccer Association, nets, field painting equipment, junior program.