

The Cornerstone

"Investing in People to Improve the Quality of Their Lives"

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A Cool Ride

Donation of refrigerated trucks will allow for the speedy transportation of food to charities across Montana.


IT WAS A CRISP BUT SUNNY JANUARY DAY at the Missoula Rail Road Depot as keys were handed to the proud owners of 7 new refrigerated trucks – a long awaited event following two years of hard work and perseverance.

The shiny, 12 foot Ford F350 refrigerated trucks were donated to food banks in the biggest cities across Montana to enable the speedy transport of food to shelters and food pantries. Much of the excess food that would otherwise be provided by restaurants and grocery stores is sent to the landfill because the food banks lack the refrigerated transportation capability. The new refrigerated trucks will allow food pantries to transport food without spoilage.

The trucks were purchased through a joint appropriation by Senator John Tester and Congressman Denny Rehberg, with an additional \$75,000 donated by the Dennis and Phyllis Foundation. The Missoula Food Bank wrote the appropriation and led the initiative, but will not

be a recipient of a new truck.

Mike Halligan, Executive Director of the Foundation, explained that although a large, one-time donation of this type is somewhat atypical for the Foundation, when they were approached with the project they jumped at the opportunity to help. Halligan said that the mission of the Foundation is to provide financial support that will cause permanent, lasting change in communities and they felt that this grant would make a real difference for needy families across Montana. The delivery of the trucks comes at a time of great need. In 2008, food banks across the state saw an estimated 50 percent increase in the number of clients they served, and the economic downturn could increase that number through 2009.

Representatives of the Billings Family Service, Butte Emergency Food Bank, Flathead Food Bank, Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Great Falls Community Food Bank, the Helena Food Share and the Poverello Center were present to receive the trucks. Cynthia Lotty of the Missoula Food Bank handed the representatives the keys, while Halligan presented each a check in the amount of \$1,500 to help cover the cost of fuel. 

Top Left: 7 new Ford F350 refrigerated trucks were donated to food banks across Montana. The trucks were purchased through a joint effort between Montana's congressional delegation and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

Bottom Left: Food banks representatives from across Montana were presented with the keys to the new trucks, in addition to a \$1,500 check to help cover the cost of fuel.



How did you

Pay it Forward?

THE PAY IT FORWARD PROGRAM allows Washington Companies' employees to participate in company giving. 240 employees were randomly selected to receive a \$250 giving card which could be used to donate to any charitable cause. We were inundated with letters from employees and recipients alike, expressing their gratitude for allowing them to help in their community, or for the help they received through this program. A few of those letters are featured here.

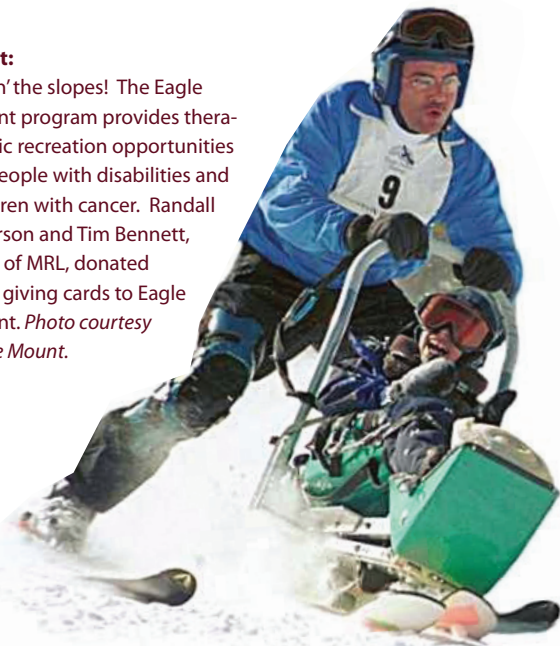
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Much needed help in tough times Family of four in Tacoma, Washington

Thank you so very much for the generous gift card Melissa Barkell of Envirocon sent us. We are a family of four just trying to make ends meet. We've lived in the Tacoma, Washington area for many years now and love the great Northwest. Times have been tough for us recently. My husband Jeff has been laid off from work since October of last year and my hours of work have been cut. Jeff is a union carpenter and I'm a waitress. Our two wonderful teenagers, Jason and Samantha, are the blessings to our lives. Work in construction is scarce and those contractors doing work are keeping things pretty tight. As a waitress my income is tip based and with the economy being the way it is, I've been making a lot less than I used to. I can't thank you enough for this gift of hope. It helps our family out more than you will ever know. We look forward to the future when we are stable again and can help others the way you've helped us.

Donated by Melissa Barkell, Envirocon

Right:
Hittin' the slopes! The Eagle Mount program provides therapeutic recreation opportunities for people with disabilities and children with cancer. Randall Peterson and Tim Bennett, both of MRL, donated their giving cards to Eagle Mount. Photo courtesy Eagle Mount.



Above: Kristopher Bender of Modern Machinery in Spokane, Washington delivers his giving card to a representative of Second Harvest food Bank. The \$250 Kristopher donated will provide for 1,500 pounds of food.

Shrine Hospital for Children Billings, Montana

My charitable Pay it Forward contribution will be for the Shrine Hospital for Children. My daughter has been going to the Shriner's Hospital since she was 3 months old. They have changed her life for her scoliosis, "curved spine". For the past 14 years she has been in back braces, and full body casts. When she was 14 years old, she was finally old enough to get the surgery done she so desperately needed. The Shriners have given my daughter a whole new life that she would have never had, if it were not for their help. The contribution from the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation will be most appreciated!!

-Mitch Chapin, Modern Machinery

Crib and mattress for expectant mother Butte, Montana

I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity to use the Pay it Forward Gift card for a great person that I know that has recently had a hard time. The card is for a great girl I know that is pregnant. She is going to be a single mom that doesn't have a whole lot of money. She is in need of all the basics for the baby so I purchased her a crib and mattress with the gift card to lessen the stress she is under. Thank you again for this great gift for my friend, she is truly very thankful for the help!!! This is a great program that makes everyone involved feel very good about being able to help others out.

-Zanae Bates, Montana Resources

Please note: some names have been changed in the interest of confidentiality.

AID FOR AILING ANIMALS ▼

Below: Steve Smith and Alayne Marker, cofounders of the nonprofit Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary, with Daisy, a Dachshund who has a spinal disability. Located in Ovando, Montana, the ranch takes in disabled animals from around the country. Daisy came from a shelter in Utah, where she was considered 'un-adoptable' because of her disability. *Photo courtesy Rolling Dog Ranch.*



Matched donations for friend in need of liver transplant Kalispell, Montana

I gave my card to a friend who lives here in Kalispell. He has Hepatitis C and needs a liver transplant. While he is waiting for a donor, he has to travel to Minnesota for treatments. It works out pretty well because the local church is having a benefit and is matching donations; therefore, my \$250 will turn into \$500 for him.

-Dave Slack, Modern Machinery

Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary Ovando, Montana

My wife and I would like to thank The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation for being selected as a recipient of a Pay It Forward Giving Card. We chose to give our card to The Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary in Ovando, MT and also gave an extra \$100 to this great charity. The Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary rescues and shelters disabled animals. Every animal that arrives at the sanctuary gets another chance to have a safe and loving home. Their residents include blind dogs, blind horses, deaf dogs, blind cats, and animals with other neurological and orthopedic disabilities. The ranch is home to about 70 animals, nearly two-thirds of them blind.

-Jeff Jamison, Montana Rail Link

Your support, continued...

Unfortunately, we do not have enough room here to include all the wonderful letters we have received. Please visit our website, www.dpwfoundation.org, to read all the stories of support. Here are some of the other causes you contributed to this season:

Community Harvest Food Bank - Thompson Falls, Montana

Jeff Suttorp, Montana Rail Link

Mountain Home of Missoula

Al Brule, Envirocon

Avon Community Church

Paul Stockton, Montana Rail Link

Salvation Army of Tacoma, Washington

Joyce Walsh, CEECO

Missoula YWCA

Trish Anderson, Montana Rail Link

Montana Environment Center

Loren Gunderson, Envirocon

Missoula County Public School District #1 Suicide Prevention Program

Mark Eisenmann, Montana Rail Link

Second Harvest Food Bank of Spokane

Kristopher Bender, Modern Machinery

Helena Food Share

Kern Kemmerer, Montana Rail Link

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Mary Pheifer, Envirocon

Bread Basket Food Bank of Ronan

Brian Palmer, Montana Rail Link

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Missoula

Monica Koemans, Washington Corporations

Park City, Utah Volunteer Fire Department

Chris Southworth, Montana Rail Link

Midwest Akita Rescue Society - Lolo, MT

Suzanne Bonner, Montana Rail Link

These stories and others can be found on our website:

www.dpwfoundation.org



Left: A bustling downtown Butte. In its first year in Montana, an estimated 75,000 people attended the event, a number expected to nearly double in 2009. *Photo by Marissa Lambert, courtesy National Folk Festival.*

Below : Music and dance traditions from every part of the nation are on display at the Festival, performed by the country's finest traditional artists. *Photo by George Everett, courtesy National Folk Festival.*

A Great American Festival

IN THE SUMMER OF 2008, Butte, Montana hosted its first National Folk Festival with resounding success. The Foundation made a contribution to the Festival in 2008 and has decided to award another grant for 2009 to support this wonderful celebration in South-west Montana. The event takes up residence in a different community every three years and Butte was chosen to hold the event from 2008 through 2010. Around 75,000 people attended last year's event between July 11-13; it is expected that the 2009 Festival will draw almost double this number. The estimated economic impact for 2009 could near \$8 million.

Since the first festival in 1934, the National Folk Festival, produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts, is the oldest multicultural festival in the nation. Over the three days of the outdoor event, festival goers are able to attend music and dance performances in addition to more hands on-activities. Participatory dancing, workshops, children's activities, food booths, storytelling, parades, and craft demonstrations are all a part of this multi-faceted cultural experience. Audiences of all ages are entertained and enlightened by the summer tribute to traditional folk arts. Styles of music and dance include blues, gospel, polka, cowboy, bluegrass, klezmer, old-time, Cajun, rhythm and blues, mariachi, western swing, and zydeco. Performances herald from an astounding range of ethnic traditions; Native American, Celtic,



Photo by George Everett, courtesy National Folk Festival

Acadian, Middle Eastern, Caribbean, East Asian, Appalachian, Hispanic, Eastern European, African and Pacific Island are all featured during the National Folk Festival. Mark your calendars for this summer from July 10-12 in Butte. You won't want to miss this event! ☺



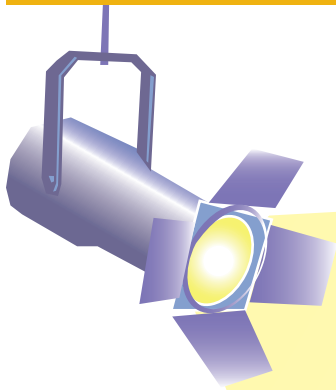
**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**
71ST FOLK FESTIVAL
JULY 10-12, 2009
BUTTE, MT
NATIONALFOLKFESTIVAL.COM

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OUT AND GET INVOLVED?

The Folk Festival needs between 700-900 volunteers to make the event happen. There are a variety of jobs from sitting only to those requiring your muscles!



State Support Spotlight



THE FOUNDATION WORKS to improve lives through funding education and projects in the areas of health and human services, arts and culture, and community service. Through February 2009, the Foundation has provided 13 community grants with an average award amount of \$7,919. The following projects are but a few of the many the Foundation recently supported.

Helping Hands

Area served: Alberton

Helping Hands of Alberton received a grant to provide lunch tickets for the seniors in the area to have lunch twice a week at the senior center. Funding will also help the needy in the Alberton area with food, heating fuel, clothing, and necessary items for day to day living.

Intermountain Opera Association

Areas served: Bozeman/Gallatin County

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Founda-

tion is supporting the Intermountain Opera Association. Our grant monies will be used to pay for busses or other school-approved transportation to the opera, to underwrite ticket costs allowing underserved families, students and organizations to attend the opera performance, and to cover costs of artists presenting workshops in schools. The Intermountain Opera Association produces two fully staged operas annually, one in the spring and one in the fall. Their main objective is to remove financial and geographic barriers that may hinder students' participation in the opera experience.

St. Luke Community Healthcare Foundation

Area Served: Ronan/Lake County

St. Luke Community Healthcare Foundation received a wonderful grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to help out their neonatal program. Specifically, funds went towards newborn hearing tests for those babies not covered by insurance or public aid. Funding is going towards "Infant Starter Kits" for new mothers discharged from the hospital. These kits include the minimum necessary supplies for their newborns including diapers, gowns, stretch suits, monitor, receiving blankets etc. St. Luke Community Healthcare constantly focuses on improving its ability to respond to the needs of the local community. A large identified need is the emotional, educational and financial support for expectant mothers and

newborn infants.

Missoula Symphony Association

Areas served: Missoula and surrounding communities

Missoula Symphony Association's grant from the Foundation will help benefit the Missoula Symphony Orchestra to present Youth Concerts for 2,000 fourth grade students from Missoula and rural communities within 100 miles. The concerts introduce students to the orchestra and raise interest in the specific instruments of the orchestra. They work collaboratively with the University of Montana's Music Education Specialist and the Missoula County Public Schools Fine Arts Supervisor to create an educational packet, which each attending school receives to assist in preparing their students for the concert. Our grant money will cut down on admission costs for around 800 children from rural schools and the production/materials of study guides and CD's.

Petroleum County History Committee

Area served: Petroleum County

Petroleum County History Committee received a grant to enable their history committee to have new history books printed and digitized on DVDs. They are preparing a county history book covering the period from

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◀ SUPPLIES FOR ST. LUKE'S

Left: A view of St. Luke Community Hospital. The Hospital's foundation received a grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation towards its neonatal program. Gayle Wilhelm, St. Luke Community Healthcare Foundation Executive Director, exclaimed, "You should hear how excited our OB supervisor is!" A portion of the funds will go towards providing "infant starter kits" for new mothers discharged from the hospital.

Executive Director's Message

The Cornerstone checks in with Mike Halligan

I wanted to first say how heartening it is to read the Pay it Forward stories that employees are posting on the Foundation website. For the 240 employees who received the "giving cards" you are truly making a difference in people's lives all across our operating areas.

For 2009, the Foundation is focusing its attention on funding basic need organizations that provide critical services such as food, shelter, utilities, transportation and clothing. We are also continuing our efforts to support early childhood education and after school programs because these are two areas in which appropriate prevention services can help children and families reach their full potential.

Thank you for all you do in your personal charitable work and the hard work you do to support the Foundation.

Sincerely,
Mike Halligan, Executive Director

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...Spotlight, continued from page 3

1989 to present time. With the help from the Foundation, it will allow the history committee to focus all of their attention on gathering and formatting historical information for the book.

Reading Rocks Literacy Program

Area served: Billings

The Grants Committee approved a grant to the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools to support their summer literacy program, Reading Rocks. Reading Rocks is designed to reverse low-income students' loss of reading achievement in the summer by offering reading activities in conjunction with Billings Public Schools Free Lunch program which serves 25,000 meals to children in six parks during the summer. Reading Rocks provides easily accessible reading opportunities to low-income children in a fun environment. Grant monies will be put towards the purchase of books and materials, prizes for students, and flyers to advertise the program with students and volunteers. C



Left: Volunteers and a young Billings reader share an afternoon book. Combining an enjoyable free lunch outdoors with reading activities is an attractive way to keep Billings low-income students' reading skills growing over the summer.

Notice of Correction:

In the last edition of *The Cornerstone*, we inadvertently reported that Youth Homes was selling its office. Friends to Youth, a separate Missoula organization, is selling its office.

Miles of Smiles

THE DENNIS AND PHYLLIS WASHINGTON FOUNDATION is in its second year of partnership with The Montana Primary Care Association (MCPA) to deliver Dental Screening to low income children across the state of Montana. Through MCPA, the Foundation's grant money was distributed to health clinics in Missoula, Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls, Libby, Butte and Helena. Thus far, over 650 children from economically disadvantaged families have been screened. Of these children, 200 have been found to have tooth decay and 88 have been found to have serious tooth decay. The Foundation is offering additional funds for the necessary additional treatments to improve the health of these children's teeth. In the absence of our funding, these screenings and care would likely not have found their way to these hundreds of children.



Since we began our Early Childhood Dental Program, three new health centers have opened in the state – one in Havre, one in Cut Bank and one in Kalispell. In light of the programs success thus far, we have decided to expand the coverage of the grant to include these areas as well. We are looking forward to more wonderful stories and pictures of smiling faces as the year proceeds and dental screenings continue. C



IS SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY CONSIDERING COLLEGE?

We can help you. The Washington Companies Employee Family Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to family members of employees of the Washington Companies who are attending an accredited university, college, vocational technical school, community college, college of technology, or trade school. The scholarship amount is \$500 per semester, or \$333 per quarter. The maximum amount per year is \$1,000, and up to \$4,000 per lifetime per person. Eligible students are enrolled full time and pursuing a degree or certificate. The application will not be processed until such time as the student is formally registered for school. For more information and to apply please visit <http://efsa.washcorp.com>.

Contributors Welcome!

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The Cornerstone is a periodical publication of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, intended for internal audiences within the Washington Companies. If you would like to submit an article to be included in the next edition of *The Cornerstone*, please email Kelly Hughes at khughes@washcorp.com.