

The Cornerstone

“Investing in People to Improve the Quality of Their Lives”



Washington Companies employees team up to compete in the First Annual Missoula Canstruction competition.

IN LIEU OF THE ANNUAL Washington Companies spring food drive, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation selected a unique employee activity that paired creativity with charitable giving. A team of Washington Companies employees, with funding by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, competed in the First Annual Missoula Area Canstruction build.

This unique food charity program is a design/build competition currently held in cities throughout North America and Australia. Team members compete to design and build giant structures made entirely from full cans of food. All food used in the giant structures is given to the Montana Food Bank Network when “deconstructed.”



The Foundation’s entry, titled “On Track to End Hunger,” used over 6,000 cans of vegetables and many cases of non-perishable boxed goods. The structure represented a Montana Rail Link 70-ton open-top hopper carrying a load of nutritious food. Team Washington took the top place in the area of “Structural Ingenuity.”

The competition challenges teams’ creative thinking and team work skills. Teams may not use any permanent adhesives, must comply with strict size regulations

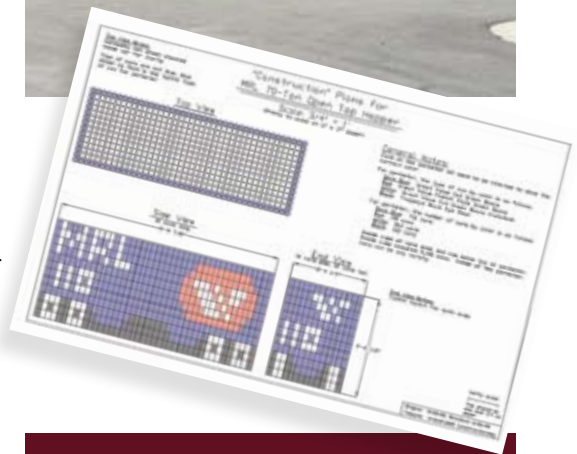
and the structure must be self-supporting--no wood, metal or other support materials. It is important that labels must not be damaged so food can be later provided to clients of food banks around Montana.

“I heard about [the Canstruction event] in a company wide e-mail, and thought it was an interesting, different way to be involved in a unique type of project,” said team member April LaRocque, an employee in the payroll department at Modern Machinery.

The Foundation fully funded the project, while Company employees provided their time outside of work in the planning and build. Around 20 Washington Companies employees from Washington Corporations, Modern Machinery and Montana Rail Link participated in various capacities.

Left: Members of Team Washington’s Canstruction build crew. Photographed from Left to Right: Tim Wolsky, Brian Casman, Christy Cheff, Nico Atienza, Alexandra Mountzouri, Toni Barrett, Monica Koemans, April LaRocque and Randy Stoos.

Bottom: Randy Stoos and Tom Moran (operating lift) transport more than 6,000 cans of food to the Modern Machinery parts warehouse for storage prior to the build.



CAN-DO TEAMWORK

Above: The Canstruction crew used detailed scale drawings in planning and building the structure. MRL Field engineer Nick Bailey prepared the drawings the team used throughout the build.

Left: A view of the finished structure - “On Track to End Hunger.” The structure represents an MRL 70-ton open-top hopper carrying a load of boxed goods. The team used over 6,000 cans in their design, all of which will go to the Missoula Food Bank.

Students Across Montana gain knowledge and experience in world affairs issues, Billings Skyview team places fourth at national competition in Washington, D.C.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DENNIS AND PHYLLIS WASHINGTON FOUNDATION, the World Affairs Council of Montana sponsored and organized an annual "Academic WorldQuest" competition for 30 teams of Montana high school students from across the state. Additionally, Foundation funding helped support the Montana national team's attendance at the national Academic WorldQuest competition in Washington, D.C. This year's Montana champion team, from Billings Skyview, competed against more than fifty other teams and finished in fourth place at the national level.

The WorldQuest competition tests students' knowledge on international issues, events, geography, and personalities. However according to the Montana national team, the program offers much more. In a letter to the Foundation, the Billings students said, "The Academic WorldQuest was much more than a trivia or knowledge based competition. We were forced to wrestle with reality vs. responsibility, the present vs.

the future, national interests vs. world interests, human development vs. the environment, wealth vs. rights, connectivity vs. crime."

In addition to competition among high school students, Academic WorldQuest activity has led to the development of a special curriculum program at a Ravalli county school. This year the program expanded significantly to outlying high schools in rural areas such as Arlee, Drummond, and Troy.

The WorldQuest program is a major element of the World Affairs Council's efforts to promote grassroots awareness of major world issues among our high school students.

The 2009 Billings Skyview High School Academic WorldQuest Team included Ander Landgren, Amanda Zellar, Laramy Ayers, Lance Pedersen, alternate member Brittany LaRoque, and Coach Rich McFate.

For more information on Academic WorldQuest, visit the Montana World Affairs Council's Web site at www.montanaworldaffairs.org.



A WORLD VIEW

Far Left: Coach Jim Polk with the first-ever Arlee High WorldQuest team. Foundation funding was used specifically in an effort to develop relationships with rural schools, to help them form teams, and facilitate their preparation and participation in the state competition.

Center: The Montana champion WorldQuest team from Billings Skyview. This was the first year Billings Skyview competed in the events. Photos courtesy of WorldQuest.

Wow! Employee Family Scholarship Doubled!

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE WASHINGTON COMPANIES -- Brian Sheridan (Modern Machinery), Tom Walsh (Montana Rail Link), Rolin Erickson (Montana Resources), Jack Gilbraith (Envirocon), and Larry Simkins (Washington Corporations) --recently announced that The Washington Companies Employee Family Scholarship Program will be **doubled to \$8,000**.

This scholarship program is made possible to families of Washington Company employees through a joint effort of the individual Washington Companies and The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, the Employee Family Scholarship

**THE WASHINGTON COMPANIES
EMPLOYEE FAMILY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**



Program will provide \$1,000 per semester (up from the previous value of \$500 per semester), with a lifetime maximum benefit of \$8,000. Eligibility extends to the spouse or child of any employee who has worked with the company for a year or more. Funds may be used for post sec-

ondary education at any accredited institution, provided the program is full time and lasts a minimum of one year.

The Washington Companies and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation work to make higher education more affordable to the families of employees, an especially welcome boost through uncertain economic times.

Employee family members wishing to apply should complete the online application at <http://efsa.washcorp.com> or call Ellen Harne at Washington Corporations (406-523-1371) or Kelly Hughes at the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation (406-523-1320).



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 June 2009, the Foundation has provided 105 community grants, totaling \$1,029,558 in grants this year. The following projects are but a few of the many the Foundation recently supported.

Montana Shakespeare

in the Parks, Bozeman/MSU

Area Served: Communities throughout Montana, Northern Wyoming, Eastern Idaho and North Dakota

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks began their 37th Montana Summer Season in June. The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation provided a grant to the program, which puts on 74 performances in 59 communities throughout Montana, northern Wyoming, eastern Idaho and North Dakota; all performances are free-of-charge and open to the public.

This year the performances are *The Tempest* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Performances usually take place in a public outdoor location in a community and do not require a ticket for admission. For more information and to find a performance in your city or town, please visit www2.montana.edu/shakespeare.

Montana Special Olympics

Areas served: Montana

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation continued its support of the Montana Special Olympics Program, marking a nineteen year partnership with the program.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety

of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and their community.

This year, 6 employee volunteers enjoyed a day at Bozeman's Field House for track and field Special Olympic events. The participation in time trials, team photos, and awards assisted the event and the employees were able to bond with many wonderful children and adults for a very special time indeed.

Polson Early Learning Matters

Area served: Flathead Valley

The Polson Early Learning Matters program holds workshops for at-risk parents with the goal of providing them with the tools they need to teach and nurture their young children. Using best practices from proven early childhood curriculum such as *Touchpoints*, they spent the 2008/2009 school year writing a program for parent training in the essentials of early learning. In an effort to help communities around the state that cannot afford to purchase and implement early childhood curriculums, Early Learning Matters made their curriculum for free distribution via their web site.

During their first two workshops, 25 families attended, including several single fathers. This was the first year of a three-year grant from the Foundation.

Berkeley Pit Viewing Stand

Area served: Butte community

Butte boosters celebrated improvements to tourist facilities at the Berkeley Pit with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 16. A Foundation grant plus many other donors aided with construction of a picnic area, admission booth, rest rooms and landscaping. The viewing area attracts around 70,000 visitors a year, educating people about the Pit and generating revenue for civic works. ☺



ALL FUN AND GAMES

Top: Washington Corporation's, Morgan Johnson, with an athlete at the 2009 Special Olympics Summer State Games in Bozeman, Montana.

Middle: Envision Butte, Inc. board members, public officials and Montana Resources representatives cut the ribbon at the Berkeley Pit viewing area.

Bottom: Montana Shakespeare in the Parks 2008 Summer production of Macbeth in Glendive, Montana. Photo Courtesy Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. Photo by Michael Kane.

The Cornerstone is the newsletter of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. Contributions of articles and photos are welcomed. Stories in this issue and a lot more can be found on our Web site:

www.dpwfoundation.org

Focus on a Horatio Alger Scholar: Jeff Grace

JEFF GRACE CAME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA with goals, dedication, and ideals. He graduated recently with all of these personal qualities intact and a well-earned academic background to enhance them. With a degree in Forensic Anthropology and a second major in Military Science, he has very noble ambitions.




Jeff's first goal is to serve his country as a Medical Evacuation Pilot. In his own words, "I want to leave this world knowing I made a difference, and my way of doing that is through the military. There are a lot of people who wish for me not to be in the military... especially in the times we are in, but personally I could think of no better way to go than to die fighting for my country."

After a number of years in the military, Jeff hopes to move to a position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Currently, Jeff is helping to train ROTC cadets in Kentucky at a program called Leadership Training Course. Jeff is on the MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) committee, which he says is "pretty fun." Jeff continued, "After we train the cadets, we get to play the opposing forces as they run mock-missions on us using paintball. The humidity is a killer here, but I'm starting to get used to it." After Kentucky, Jeff will head to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas for his Medical Platoon Leader training, and then arrive in Ft. Carson, Colorado for his first duty station.

In a recent letter to the Foundation, Jeff says, "I am very blessed to have received the track that I have been given. Ft. Carson is one of the best posts to be stationed on in the U.S. I'm glad I'll still have some mountains around ... it wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of Horatio Alger to help me through college!" We are proud to call Jeff a Montana Horatio Alger Scholar and wish him the best of luck with his future!

WHAT IS THE HORATIO ALGER PROGRAM?

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans is a national group with which the Washington Family and the Dennis and Washington Foundation have had a long standing relationship. The organization is named after the renowned author Horatio Alger, Jr., whose tales of overcoming adversity through unyielding perseverance and basic moral principles captivated the public in

the late 19th century. With strongly aligned values of education and hard work, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation has sponsored more than 500 Montana undergraduate students and more than 25 graduate students with Horatio Alger Scholarships and Fellowships. 

Young Life marks construction start for Washington Family Ranch expansion




On July 13, friends, staff and benefactors gathered at Washington Family Ranch, a Young Life Camp in Antelope, Oregon, to celebrate beginning construction of an additional youth summer camp facility there. The construction is funded with a gift from the Washington Family and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. The new facility, specially designed for middle-school kids, increases summer season capacity from nearly 600 teens per week by



L-R: Kevin Washington, Dennis Washington, Phyllis Washington, Marilyn Rydberg, Denny Rydberg

an additional 350 younger campers per week. At the event Phyllis Washington said, "Everyone has reason to be proud of this camp, the [middle school] kids are the edge of tomorrow." Kevin Washington said, "We're happy, as a family, to put this facility here." "The real people who start the engines are the volunteers who come out here and give of them-

selves," noted Dennis Washington, "to them, our warmest thanks." In conclusion Denny Rydberg, Young Life President, said, "Here, hundreds of thousands of kids will have the best week of their lives."

Young Life is an international non-denominational Christian ministry to youth. Expanding what is already the largest of Young Life's 25 camps, the new camp is expected to be operational in 2011. 



Message from Executive Director, Mike Halligan

Despite the slow economy, I want to reinforce our appreciation for all of the work each of you does for the Washington Companies. I am happy to report that Foundation assets are stable and growing

and, while many other foundations were forced to reduce their grant awards because of endowment losses, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation grant-making budget was *increased* for 2009. Due to job losses and other hardships currently facing our communities, the Grants Committee and Board of Directors have determined that Foundation grant making this year should focus on nonprofit organizations that provide 'basic needs' to the growing number of individuals

and families who are in need of assistance. By way of example, we are funding initiatives to provide free mammograms and cervical cancer screenings to low income women, dental screenings and care for low income children, increased scholarships to help disadvantaged youth attend post-secondary education, and expanded commitments to food banks around Montana. Thank you again for the hard work you do that supports the Foundation and helps make these grants possible. Please contact us anytime with questions or input.

Stay tuned for information about our next employee volunteer opportunity--Habitat For Humanity Build Days, the week of September 14!