BE A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY · NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSSELSHELL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION · 2026

Be a part of the community.

Musselshell Valley Community Foundation

**Musselshell Valley Community Foundation is a local 501(c)3 charitable foundation dedicated to enhancing the vitality of the communities in the Musselshell River Valley in central Montana.**

2026 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

# LOOK WHAT WE DID. TOGETHER.

*A landmark year for MVCF.*
*A heartfelt thank-you to the valley that made it happen.*

**1997**
Our foundation's beginning

**$200,000+**
Granted to local projects since then

## There's a lot to celebrate.


GRANTS · PAGE 2

### Good ideas, backed.
See the organizations and projects your gifts helped fund.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER · PAGE 3

### A goal worth cheering.
Derin shares the milestone and what it means for the valley.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS · PAGE 7

### From plans to play.
A Central Park update from the people behind the work.

OUR DONORS · PAGE 9

### It starts with you.
Neighbors, families and businesses who showed up for MVCF.


Help write the next chapter: **mvcommunityfoundation.com/donate**

# Grants at Work | 2025 & 2026

A museum exhibit. A school freezer. A place to play. Here's where recent gifts went.

## 2026

**DES, Billings Cub Scout Pack 3302 $2,270**
Funding for Stop the Bleed.

**Musselshell Valley Historical Museum $14,870**
Funding for Paleo Exhibit 2026 and its Dinosaur Trail debut.

**Roundup Commemorative Garden $3,700**
An awning and lights for the mural.

**Musselshell-Golden Valley 4-H $4,359.81**
Panels and gates for expanded pens.

**Lavina Cemetery Association $3,444.04**
Plaques for a veterans memorial.

**THESE GRANTS TOTAL $28,643.85**

## 2025

**Arts & Culture $1,250**
Support for Shakespeare in the Parks.

**Roundup Community Partners $10,000**
Funding for playground equipment.

**Roundup Memorial Hospital $5,000**
Support for the Stop the Bleed program.

**Lavina Schools $2,300**
A new freezer for the school.

**THESE GRANTS TOTAL $18,550**

These listed awards total **$47,193.85** across the two years.
Recipients and project descriptions: MVCF's published grant list.

## A LOOK BACK: USEFUL THINGS, LASTING VALUE

2024 · $12,000

### Room to wrestle

Roundup Wrestling Club received a grant for wrestling mats.

2021 · $4,100

### A place at the table

John D. Iverson Youth Center received funding for tables and chairs.

2020 · $3,105

### Tools for the library

Friends of the Library received a grant for a microfilm machine.

2019 · $1,000

### For the food bank

Musselshell Valley Food Bank received funding for a new refrigerator.

Selected past awards from mvcommunityfoundation.com/grants.

## LOCAL NONPROFITS: FOUR CHANCES A YEAR TO APPLY

**February 1 · May 1 · August 1 · November 1**

Find the application and guidance at **mvcommunityfoundation.com/grants**. Mail completed applications to MVCF, Box 713, Roundup, MT 59072, or drop them off at the Roundup City Office.

## COME SEE WHAT'S NEXT.

MVCF meetings are open to the community: **4th Monday of each month · 6:00 p.m. · Roundup City Office**

## 2026 Board of Directors

**Derin Gebhardt** *President* **Bill Milton** *Vice Chair* **Melissa Carlson** *Secretary / Treasurer*

Adam Carlson · Sandra Gebhardt · Eric Eliasson · Stacey Mihalovich

Dana Milton · Norma Zolnikov



# You did it, Musselshell Valley.

*A letter from Derin Gebhardt, President*

Dear Members and Supporters,

We did it! Our community met the $300,000 local fundraising goal, and an anonymous donor matched those gifts. With the endowment already in place, and with the gifts and commitments that got us there, our endowment is now **over $1 million.**

That is a wonderful sentence to be able to write. To everyone who gave, and to the donor who made the match possible: thank you. Gifts of every size helped us get here. This is your success, and I hope you take a moment to enjoy it.

Here is what makes me most excited. We now have the capacity to support more local work, not just for one good year, but for the years ahead. The annual grant potential has grown from around $16,000 to approximately $50,000. Those are dollars our valley's nonprofit organizations can put to work close to home.

The projects in these pages remind us why this goal mattered. Behind each one is someone willing to do the work. MVCF can help put resources behind those good ideas.

There is still more we can do. For today, though, I want to say how grateful I am to everyone who helped us reach this point. Thank you for believing in this community and investing in its future. What a year to build on.

Warmest regards,
**Derin Gebhardt, President**

# Project Summaries

COMMITTEE UPDATE · 2026

## Arts & Culture Committee

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
**Much Ado About Nothing · July 20**

A FREE PERFORMANCE
**Baroque Music Montana · October 3**





Shakespeare in the Park · Much Ado About Nothing · July 20

The Arts & Culture Committee had a wonderful year in 2026, filled with great events, new faces, and continued community support.

One of the highlights of the year was successfully transitioning our board and welcoming several new members. We are excited to have Kathleen Anderson, Virginia Carlson, Sophie Branch, Sherri Flanscha, and Montana Aurand join our team. Their enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and willingness to serve have brought new energy to our mission. We are also grateful that our longtime board members continue to stay involved and help guide our efforts.

This summer, we were pleased to host the 2026 Shakespeare in the Park performance of Much Ado About Nothing on July 20. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout from the community. As always, we enjoyed carrying on our tradition of hosting a potluck for the actors after the show and providing breakfast the following morning.

In October, we were honored to present a free performance by Baroque Music Montana. Violinist Carrie Krause and theorbo player John Lenti shared a beautiful afternoon of music with our community on October 3 at the Methodist Church. We are thankful to everyone who attended and supported this special event.

As we close out another successful year, we want to thank the Roundup community for its continued support of the arts. Your attendance, encouragement, and involvement help make these events possible. We look forward to bringing more music, theater, and cultural opportunities to our community in the coming year. Be sure to watch for exciting events in 2027!

*Thank you, Roundup, for helping keep the arts alive and thriving in our community.*

# Project Summaries cont.

ROUNDUP INDEPENDENCE DAYS EXTRAVAGANZA

## RIDE 2026 Breaks Records Again






Evening shows at the City Park stage, RIDE 2026

The 21st edition of RIDE once again set attendance records for concerts and overall participation on July 3-5th in Roundup. Both evening shows at the City Park stage drew over 5,000 concert goers each night. Cooper Alan brought his energy filled show on the evening of July 3rd, and the legendary Country Music Hall of Famer Tanya Tucker performed to an awesome crowd on July 4th. She was blown away after the show by our always great fireworks show.



The Fourth of July fireworks show

We had our first annual RIDE Horseshow tournament in City Park on the 3rd, along with Kids Kountry and the Barnology Petting Zoo, which was here for three days. Our annual Pine Ridge RIDE golf tournament was once again very successful. The non alcoholic Mimosa Mile took place on the 4th, along with Cowboy Church with Dave Bergeson.

RIDE is a part of the Musselshell Valley Community Foundation. We are proud to be partners. Each year, part of our proceeds go to the Foundation to continue to enhance and enrich our community. We can't wait until next year.

*Mike Morgan*

**Thank you, Signal Peak Energy, for supporting RIDE!**

# Project Summaries cont.

MUSSELSHELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

## Montana Rocks!

*Bringing Montana's Geology to Life*

The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum received a $14,870 grant from the Musselshell Valley Community Foundation in 2026 to support its expanding paleontology and geology exhibits.

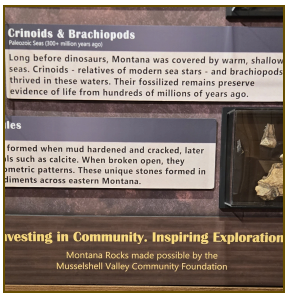
A centerpiece of these improvements is Montana Rocks!, a new educational display designed to introduce visitors to Montana's remarkable geological history. Featuring a 10-foot exhibit wall with twelve display cubes, Montana Rocks! will showcase rocks and fossils that help tell the story of our region's ancient past.

The exhibit complements the museum's growing fossil collection and its participation in the Montana Dinosaur Trail, helping make Roundup a destination for history, geology, and paleontology enthusiasts.

Thanks to the generous support of MVCF, the museum continues working to create engaging educational experiences for local families, students, and visitors while preserving and sharing the natural history of the Musselshell Valley.






Montana Rocks! at the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum

FISCALLY SPONSORED BY MVCF

## Market on Main

*Supporting Local, Building Community*





Market on Main

Market on Main brought vendors, shoppers, and neighbors together for three successful events in 2026. With two markets held at the Musselshell County Fairgrounds and a Fourth of July market in downtown Roundup, the events offered opportunities for the community to gather, shop, and support local businesses.

Featuring handmade crafts, homemade goods, food, and a wide variety of vendors, Market on Main provides a welcoming place for small businesses, artisans, and entrepreneurs to share their products with the community. The markets also draw visitors from surrounding areas, helping showcase the people and businesses that make the Musselshell Valley special.

With the Musselshell Valley Community Foundation serving as its fiscal sponsor, Market on Main continues to provide opportunities for local entrepreneurs while encouraging community involvement and supporting our local economy.

# A Place to Play. A Place to Gather.

## Roundup Community Partners (RCP) Update

2026 has been another busy year for RCP! RCP continues to maintain the RiverWalk, Roundup Historic Walk, and Roundup Map brochures. Since 2024, RCP has maintained the kiosk at the Welcome Plaza and stock the brochures monthly. Since 2017, RCP has also stocked the brochures at the RiverWalk kiosks monthly. Our volunteers have supported the City by weeding the Plaza gardens six times this year. RCP received a $1,100 grant from the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association and revitalized the northwest garden at the Plaza, where the plants had died and decorative rock bed had filled with dirt and debris.



Central Park's new playground, with historic Central School beyond.

RCP was so excited to finalize the installation of the playground equipment for the Central Park playground on May 6, 2026, and hosted a dedication ceremony on July 5, 2026 to honor Central School teachers and staff. RCP is so grateful to all those who helped save this play-space for our youth! Our partners for the project are honored on the park signage. RCP is currently raising money to pour concrete at the new location of the basketball court at Central Park. We have raised $10,600 of the $18,000 needed for the court.

**NEXT UP: THE BASKETBALL COURT** **FUNDRAISING PROGRESS**

$7,400 still needed for concrete at the court's new location.

RCP continues to support the developer for the Central School and other Main Street building developers. This is RCP's 11th year hosting Community Coffees to share information and gather community input. RCP has enormous gratitude to all those who support our efforts for the intentional revitalization of Roundup!




The Central Park sign honors historic Central School, built in 1911.

# Treasurer's Report 2026

## MVCF ENDOWMENT FUND

***Current value: $932,651.43***

This permanent restricted fund is held and administered by the Montana Community Foundation (MCF). Its purpose is long-term stability: the principal remains invested, with annual distributions supporting local grants.

**Commitments for future gifts are not included in the current invested endowment balance shown above.**

In addition to the current balance, MCF has documented $130,942.27 in planned giving and $100,000 in estate bequests. Bequests may be changed before they are received and are not part of the current invested balance. Our matching donor matched planned gifts in full and bequests at 50%.

We are profoundly grateful to the donors, families, businesses, and neighbors who made this possible. Your generosity creates a lasting legacy for Musselshell County. THANK YOU!

## MVCF ADMINISTRATION & SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

***Current value: $105,633.43***

This fund covers MVCF operating expenses, reimbursable grants, and special projects. Of this total, $21,282.61 is available for the 2027 grant cycle.

## ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE (A&C)

***Current value: $2,081.21***

This committee brings artistic and cultural programming to the Musselshell Valley, including Shakespeare in the Parks and the Missoula Children's Theatre.

## ROUNDUP INDEPENDENCE DAYS EXTRAVAGANZA (RIDE)

***Current value: $457,558.52***

RIDE organizes Roundup's annual Fourth of July entertainment and cultural events. Its 2026 celebration was its biggest yet!

## ROUNDUP COMMUNITY PARTNERS (RCP)

***Current value: $12,788.67***

RCP focuses on long-term community improvements. In 2026, the committee completed the playground project, another investment in welcoming community spaces.

## MUSSELSHELL COUNTY RECOVERY TEAM (MCRT)

***Current value: $7,899.00***

This committee supports long-term disaster recovery in Musselshell County. Thankfully, it remained inactive this year. Funds are available for reactivation if needed.

## ROUNDUP MARKET ON MAIN

***Current value: $2,530.26***

This fund supports Market on Main, which hosted seasonal community events at the fairgrounds in 2026.

## Thank you for your support

DONATIONS FROM OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

### Grantors

Billings Community Foundation
Montana Community Foundation

### Benefactor ($1,000 +)

Anonymous
The Exclusive
Madeline Cooper
Milton Ranch
Musselshell Valley Equipment
Jay & Anne Newell
Chris Pfister and Susan Lasher
Albert & Linda Picchioni
Larry & Bette Ross
Gary Sackett
Brian & Lynne Seitz
Diane Seitz
Fred & Esther Stiers
Ippei Tanaka
Michael Turley

### Builder ($200 +)

Harley Blegen
Toni Brandt
Melissa & Adam Carlson
Christensen Fulton & Filz
Ralph & Susan Goffena
John & Pat Iverson
Bo E Kombol
Cathy & Terry Kombol
Sharon Lewallen
Tom & Dixie Liggett
Gil & Linda Majerus
Greg & Mary Mason
Greg & Connie Mattfield
Jeff & Bea Raths
Gary & Cathy Ray
Victoria & Scot Seitz
Billy Kristina Shirley Seitz
Jean L Smith
Mark Szczypinski & Theresa Doumitt
Dallas & Cecelia Teini
Your Cause, LLC

### Sustainer

Rick & Deborah Adolph
Tracy Anderson
Adele Bissonette
John & Kim Blau
Jeff & Shellie Blodgett
Steve & Barb Crosby
Gene & Delores DesJarlais
Ricky & Stephanie Downs
Vivian Edwards
Bev Eiselein
Eric Eliasson
Derin & Sandra Gebhardt
Alan & Susan Goffena
Barbara & Kerry Halverson
Holly Seitz Marchant
Jack & Donna Marmon
Dorothy E. McConnell
Barry & Denise McGranahan
Robert & Stacey Mihalovich
Alan & Nancy Nicholson
Jack Nickels
John Rouane
Roshelle Satterthwait
Lester & Pam Wessel
Peter & Norma Zolnikov

# A little local history

**WHY "ROUNDUP"?**

Our county seat takes its name from the cattle roundups of the late 1800s.

**FEBRUARY 2, 1911**

The day Musselshell County was created. Its name comes from mussel shells found in the river.

Source: Musselshell County, "About" · musselshellcounty.gov/about

MVCF
Box 713
Roundup, MT 59072

## THE DRIVE ISN'T OVER.

Help grow the endowment for the next good idea.

**mvcommunityfoundation.com/donate**

Or mail a check to MVCF, P.O. Box 713, Roundup, MT 59072.
Questions about a gift? Call Derin Gebhardt at 406-855-4118.

Your gift helps support these five areas of community life:

- Community enhancement
- Recreation and culture
- Youth activities
- Natural resources
- Community education

Be a part of the community.

*Musselshell Valley Community Foundation*

### A gift for the future

Planned gifts can include bequests and retirement plan assets. Talk with your tax advisor about the option that fits you.