SGCF holds an annual strategic planning meeting with board members and staff. The focus of the meeting is our mission and if we are meeting it. It is a time commitment from our board members to attend. Working around schedules can be difficult, but year after year SGCF board members walk away with a better understanding of the Foundation and excited for the upcoming year. Strong nonprofit boards are vital for a well-functioning nonprofit. The board must be dedicated and have an understanding of the work the organization is trying to accomplish. Each board member should be passionate about the work being done in the community and understand its importance. The board needs to be knowledgeable of the organization’s financials and how funds are raised to continue its work. It can be a lot to take in and process, even after being on a board for a period of time, but having a good understanding of the organization you are representing is important.

As an ambassador for a nonprofit, you should be able to share your story of why you support the organization and its work in the community, what is it about XYZ that excites you. Sharing your excitement and passion for the organization is half of the role of being on a nonprofit board. Board members are also responsible for fiduciary oversight and ensuring the funds raised on behalf of the organization are spent responsibly. Meeting regularly with agendas that allow you to discuss your financials, programs, and upcoming events will help you have a deeper understanding of your mission, goals, and outcomes, along with your financials and how your funding is being spent.

It is also important to have policies and procedures in place to alleviate any issues of having only one person who has access to the organization’s accounts. One idea is to include requiring two signatures on expenditures that are over a certain amount.

The Foundation is here to support nonprofit work in our community. SGCF can assist you in setting meeting agendas, strategic planning, developing work plans, and building policies and procedures.

Taking the time upfront to complete these documents can help the nonprofit focus on the mission, goals, and outcomes of the organization without that feeling of being reactive instead of proactive.

Nonprofit board members are the reason so many wonderful things happen in our community.

Thank you to everyone who makes the commitment to be a nonprofit board member and who helps our community thrive.
Thank you for supporting the 2019 Match Fund!

**Community Challengers**
- Joan Haseltine
- Bill and Vivian Heaney
- McKnight Ranch
- Anonymous (2)

**Community Leaders**
- Cookie Agnew, Clayr and Betty Alexander, Big Timber Lutheran Church, Francis and Sandi Blake,

**All Friends of the Match!**

Board members Colter Todd and Tara Becken reveal the total amount raised for all 20 organizations during the Raw Deal Run Community Fundraiser Celebration on October 17th.

‘These funds will be used to purchase new reflective coats to keep everyone safe out on our highways, but since we received more than we planned on, we will probably put the extra funds towards purchasing new equipment for the new ambulance. Thank you.’

-Rob Farnum - Ambulance Manager

THANK YOU for your support during the Raw Deal Run Community Fundraiser!

Below, board member Betsy Donald awards representatives from the Hospitality House $15,498!

**Thank you for supporting the 2019 Match Fund!**

**Raw Deal Run Sponsors**

**Presenting**

**Thank You!**

**Prime**
- Duff Norton Air Motor Jack Co.
- The Firehouse
- The Fort
- Mark Norem Real Estate
- Park Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Tom Roe & Son Construction

**Choice**
- Blake Nursery
- C. Sharps Arms Co.
- Oie Motor Company
- Sky Federal Credit Union
- Sonny Todd Real Estate
- Sweet Grass Title Company
- Timber Bar
- Ullman Lumber Co. Inc.

**Select**
- Crazy Mountain Chiropractic
- Little Timber Quilts & Candy
- Stephens Auto Supply
- Yellowstone Feed
Community Endowments
What these can mean for you and our community

Community foundations help build thriving communities by providing easy and flexible ways for local donors to make their charitable investments. We understand the landscape of local nonprofits and community needs. By connecting people to have greater impact, a community foundation’s goal is to help the region realize its fullest potential.—Jefferson Community Foundation, WA

Endowment is a complicated word but can have such an impact in a community and for the donor. Montana has increased the impact by continuing the Montana Income Tax Credit to qualified charitable endowments until December 31, 2026.

This credit allows donors to pay less in MT state income taxes when they give a planned gift to a qualified charitable endowment such as Sweet Grass Community Foundation’s endowment.

Individuals who make this type of gift will receive a MT tax credit of 40% of their gift, with a maximum credit of $10,000, or $20,000 for joint filers. Businesses and corporations that make a direct gift of this type will receive 20% of their gift with a maximum credit of $10,000.

These gifts can help you reach your goals and give back to the community for years to come.

Crazy Peak Cattle Women received their own 501(c)3 and will be an independent organization starting January 2020. SGCF will continue to support this organization’s efforts in our community and wishes them the best!

Granting Funds
Mission focused, community minded

Impact mapping is a powerful tool and allows those involved to see just how each grant can effect our community. During the strategic planning meeting in October, while we ate lunch, we participated in this exercise. The map was completed with just the grants made from January through September of 2019. As board members recalled grants made from the beginning of the year, you could start to see how each grant impacts not only the organization that receives it, but all who are associated with that organization, or those who participate in their programs or services. New football helmets for this year’s team of 40+, but also for the next few year’s players. Fresh fruit and vegetables for meals this year at the Hospitality House but also for the next 2 years from the multi-year grant. Behavioral health not only effects those directly involved but also the Sheriff’s office and staff at the PMC.

Everyone who supports SGCF is involved in our granting programs. You are making an impact across our community. And even though we did not have time to complete this map, we wanted to share the impact you are making in our community and say thank you!
Pledges improve the Foundation’s ability to budget and forecast for the upcoming year. Community Investor and Community Sustainer pledges are a great way to make your impact in the community, while helping SGCF programs and projects. Consider starting your pledge in 2020. It’s easy and you can start your pledge by filling out the enclosed form or on our website!