# Community Foundation NEWSLETTER Winter 2007

COMMUNITY **FOUNDATION** 

#### **ELECTED OFFICERS**

Rick Stiles Chairman Larry Ratliff Vice Chairman Penny Keogh Treasurer Becky Chenault Asst. Treasurer Finis Sandlin Secretary Kathy Currie Asst. Secretary

#### BOARD **MEMBERS**

Keith Martin **Bob McKinsey** Doug Robinette Pam Oliver Advertising Coordinator



### Another Successful Nye Goes Nuts!

Once again, our Nye Goes Nuts event and individual donations from our friends throughout the year have given the Nye Community Foundation the financial means to support local groups and organizations.

In 2007, the NCF distributed

- \* \$1000 to the Nye School.
- \* \$2750 to the Nye Volunteer Fire Department.
- \* \$300 to the Absarokee Recreation Association.
- \* \$300 to the Absarokee Pool.
- \* \$300 to the American Youth Soccer Organization.
- \* \$300 to Skip's Place for Kids.
- \* \$300 to Absarokee High School Music and Drama Club.
- \* \$5000 in scholarships to graduates of Absarokee High School.



"Your foundation does great things for the community and for our youth in the area. Congratulations on your successful events." -Wanda Flanagan 2007 ATV Winner

#### 2007 ATV Winner, An Absarokee Resident

The annual ATV raffle continues to be our most successful fundraiser. Wanda Flanagan was the lucky winner of the 2007 Honda Rancher. Through the years, our ATV winners have been local residents, living and working in the Nye-Absarokee area. How nice to see our friends and supporters tooling around on their prizes. The Foundation sends a special thank you to Keith Martin, board member, for his unrelenting hard work in making this event such a success.

















## NCF Success Story

Old and neglected playground equipment at the Nye School led to the birth of the Nye Community Foundation. It all began ten years ago, in 1997, when the school's 40 year-old swings and slide were falling apart, and the school board was searching for money to replace them.

Penny Keogh, a school board member, and Margaret Look, a Nye resident, applied for grants from charitable foundations in Montana for money for playground equipment, but the requests were denied. David Nighbert joined the women in contacting the Montana Community Foundation for help in establishing the Nye Community Foundation. It was officially born on May 8, 2000, the day it was incorporated with the State of Montana.



After Nye Goes Nuts in 2000, the foundation's first annual fund-raiser, the school received \$1,275 towards refinishing and preserving the original hardwood floor.

With \$750 from the 2001 Nye Goes Nuts proceeds, the school started a fund for new playground equipment. This sparked a community-wide drive for funds for improving the school playground. Jars and tin cans soliciting money for new playground equipment were everywhere. Countless people dropped in their change.

In 2002 and 2003, the NCF received two grants from the Steele-Reese Foundation totaling \$3,240. Added to the money already collected, the old slide was replaced, replacement swings were installed, a climbing wall and a spring frog were added to complete the playground's new look. Along with being more attractive, the new equipment is safer than the old.

This was just the beginning. The annual donations of the NCF have helped the school board fence the playground, plant apple trees, and buy picnic tables. Other improvements partially funded by the Nye Community Foundation were the purchase and installation of new windows and doors for the 76 year-old school, and a new roof for the teacherage.

Highlighting the new look at the Nye School, is a log sign, made from lumber supplied by local residents, painted and put in place by friends of the school. This is the way we do things in Nye. Every person gives what they can!





2007 NCF Scholarship Recipients

Left to Right: Cassie Keogh, Cort Ratliff, Kaitlin Keogh, Chris Ecret, and William Oliver

For the first time since the inception of the NCF Scholarship Program, all five recipients have been active volunteers with the Nye Community Foundation. Each student has donated time and energy to help insure the success of the foundation's annual events, Nye Goes Nuts and Nye Gets Lit. The NCF places great importance on the community service experiences of its scholarship applicants. We are proud to support these students in their continuing education. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2007-2008 school year. Congratulations to our Nye crew!

#### 2007 Memorials and Honors

In Memory of

Vonnie Winge Fenelon Phyllis Howard Robert Howard Darrel Jensen John Kruse Travis Look George Moses Lucille Moses Ann Noyes Charlotte Stout Dale Valgamore Dorothy Valgamore Adam Viers Jim Waldo Herb Walton

In Honor of Margaret Look



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.

Potter's Gift Shop

Ratliff Family

Frank Ratliff

Martin Reed & Patricia Mulhearn

River Haven Bed & Breakfast

Anna Robinette

Jean & Patrick Rollwitz

Royce Family

Kyle Sandlin

Marvin & Cameron Schieldt

Ellen Schoemer

Ellen Schoemer

Charles & Kathryn Schwenneker

Sarah Seibert

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