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Montana Community Foundation Earns National Accreditation for Philanthropic Excellence

Helena, Mont., November 17, 2016 – The Montana Community Foundation (MCF) recently earned accreditation from the National Standards Board for U.S. Community Foundations, the nation's highest standard for philanthropic excellence. The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations was created to demonstrate effectiveness and accountability to policymakers, regulators, and the public, establishing legal, ethical, and effective practices for community foundations.

MCF is the first and only community foundation in Montana to earn this distinction. With MCF earning this accreditation, now every state in the U.S. has an accredited community foundation. Additionally, the accreditation is conveyed to many local community foundations affiliated with MCF and operating under its 501(c)3. These include Blaine County Community Foundation, Broadwater County Community Foundation, Carter County Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Northern Rosebud County, Culbertson Area Community Foundation, Darby Town Endowment Fund, Elkhorn Community Foundation, Golden Prairie Community Foundation, Great Falls Area Community Foundation, Greater Glendive Community Foundation, Hardin Area Community Foundation, Hill County Community Endowment, Lincoln County Community Foundation, Lincoln Valley Community Foundation, Powell County Community Foundation, Redwater Community Foundation, Roosevelt County Community Foundation, Sheridan County Community Foundation, Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, Sunburst Community Foundation, Tobacco Valley Community Foundation, Treasured Community Foundation, and Wibaux Endowment Foundation.

Mary K. Rutherford, President and Chief Executive Officer at MCF, said meeting the National Standards' benchmark was a rigorous, comprehensive process. "It encompasses, examines, and qualifies every aspect of a community foundation's work, including financials, legal compliance, fundraising, grantmaking, governance, donor education and services, marketing, community leadership, and so much more."

The National Standards' accreditation process is not mandatory, but it has been a primary goal for the organization and for Rutherford since joining MCF in 2014. "This significant accomplishment assures our donors, nonprofit partners, professional advisors, and the public that we are not only following legal guidelines, but also have made a commitment to operational excellence, accountability, and sound policies and procedures."

The mission of MCF is to cultivate a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish. Founded in 1988, MCF manages approximately \$80 million in assets and administers more than 900 philanthropic funds and planned gifts. Since 1988, MCF has reinvested more than \$37 million in Montana through grants to charitable organizations and causes across the state.

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About Montana Community Foundation

MCF serves as a center for philanthropy in Montana, working with donors, charitable organizations and communities to provide simple and effective ways to give back to Montana.

For more information and to learn how you can support Montana communities, visit www.mtcf.org or call (406) 443-8313. Find us on [Facebook](#).