



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Montanans Show Incredible Generosity Despite Tech Challenges on MTGives Day

**Helena, Mont.**, May 17, 2016 – A technical problem caused significant challenges with MTGives Day and the other give local efforts in Montana and across the country on May 3. The online platform failure either prevented give local websites from being able to process online donations, or at best, process them with huge delays. Despite this website crash, MTGives and the other give local events in the Gallatin Valley, Flathead, Helena, Missoula, and Yellowstone saw some extraordinary successes.

Columbus, a town with fewer than 2,000 residents whose goal was to raise \$1,000 in their first give local effort, raised more than \$25,000. Helena, who raised \$55,000 last year, raised more than \$62,000. The Bozeman Area Community Foundation's Give Big Gallatin Valley event had a goal to raise \$300,000, and they managed to raise an incredible \$420,000. The final numbers are not yet available, but organizers are happy to report Montanans came together and raised approximately \$880,000 through MTGives and other give local events across the state. This beats the previous record from 2015 of \$640,000 raised. These funds go to support nonprofits that are vital to Montana communities.

Montana Community Foundation did not provide the technology and had no control over the events which led to the technical issues with the websites, but as an organizer and promoter of the event they feel terrible this happened. If there's a silver lining to the malfunction itself, it's that the problem was caused by an overwhelming number of people going online to make a charitable donation. As Meredith Printz of the Missoula Community Foundation put it, "We didn't expect you to break the Internet with your generosity, but you did."

"The resilience of our fellow Montanans on MTGives Day was a remarkable thing to witness," said Mary Rutherford, Montana Community Foundation President and CEO. "By pulling together, sharing ideas, acting quickly and getting creative, and most of all, showing the strength Montanans have in the face of adversity, the giving day turned into a success few could have imagined. We are incredibly grateful for the support and generosity. It is a powerful, wonderful thing to behold."

MTGives is a 24-hour online giving event that connects community members in Montana with local nonprofits to reinforce the value of local philanthropic giving and community engagement. For more information, visit [www.MTGives.org](http://www.MTGives.org).

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### About Montana Community Foundation

Montana Community Foundation's (MCF) mission is to cultivate a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish. Founded in 1988, MCF manages more than \$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. 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](http://www.mtcf.org) or call (406) 443-8313. Find us on [Facebook](#).