



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Montana Community Foundation Prepares for 2019 with New Board Members and Officers

**HELENA, Mont.**, February 21, 2019 – Montana Community Foundation announces the addition of two new board members and election of new board officers. The new board members are Leonard Smith and Tom McGree. New officers are Laura Brehm (president), Kelly Bruggeman (vice president), Mary Ann Phipps (secretary), and Karen Latka (treasurer).

“Our newest board members and new officers bring immeasurable experience across diverse fields,” says Mary Rutherford, Montana Community Foundation president and CEO. “We’re excited to further our mission of cultivating a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish with both our new board members and leadership.”

Smith is an Assiniboine and Sioux tribal member of the Fort Peck Tribes and current executive director and founder of the Native American Development Corporation (NADC). He holds his B.S. in business management from MSU Billings. His 30 years of organizational and business development spans a varied network of both tribal and nontribal organizations, including the Native American Manufacturers Network, the Tribal Leadership Council for Montana and Wyoming Tribes, CEO of a tribal enterprise, deputy district director for business development with the U.S. Small Business Administration, director of the Missoula Indian Center, assistant vice president of the Indian Credit Corporation, and owner of a consulting firm.

McGree is chief operating officer for First Security Bank in Helena. Prior to banking, he worked in risk management and insurance across Montana. He is a Carroll College graduate with a B.A. in accounting. He also has a Master of Business Administration from Gonzaga University. He is a Helena native, Leadership Montana alumni, as well as a former chair of the Leadership Montana Board of Governors. Other organizational experience includes board chair for the Montana Ambassadors, Helena Regional Airport Authority Board, the Helena Education Foundation Board, and Grandstreet Theatre Board.

Brehm, of Missoula, is the new board chair. A University of California, Berkeley graduate, she brings more than 30 years of nonprofit experience to the Montana Community Foundation. Along with her degree from Berkeley, she has an executive education certificate from the London School of Business and Finance in strategic innovation. Her record of achievements includes being president and CEO of The University of Montana Foundation, prior national vice president of the Trust for Public Land, current board member of the Northern Rockies Advisory Board of the Trust for Public Land, UM’s Grizzly Riders board member, and recipient of the Berkeley Citation, The University of California, Berkeley’s highest honor for achievement.

Bruggeman, of Billings, is a vice president with First Interstate BancSystem and the executive director of the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation. She was a founding board member of two statewide Montana nonprofit organizations – NeighborWorks Montana and the Montana Financial Education Coalition, of which she is still a board member. She has served on the boards of Philanthropy Northwest and the Montana Nonprofit Association. Bruggeman is also a member of the Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship, Council on Foundations, and Philanthropy Northwest. She is a graduate of the University of Montana's School of Business Administration and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University – Governing the Family Business.

Phipps, of Glendive, is a senior tax accountant at CHMS, P.C., an accounting and tax firm in eastern Montana. Her work includes individual, corporate, nonprofit, partnership, and estate tax as well as estate planning services. She is an enrolled agent with the IRS. Prior to CHMS, she worked at the Garfield County Bank in Jordan, Montana, and is a founding board member of the Garfield County Community Foundation. She attended Brigham Young University.

Latka, of Helena, formerly worked for the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena as an accountant and office manager. Prior to this, she served as the parish financial consultant. Before moving to Helena, she served on the board of directors for Basin State Bank headquartered in Stanford, Montana, with branches in Lewistown and Geraldine. Her background also includes work in the banking industry in the Seattle area and two years in finance for The Boeing Company. She grew up on a ranch outside of Stanford and attended Montana State University where she earned a degree in business finance with a minor in economics. She served as vice president and president of the Rossiter Elementary School Parent Council and served on the Superintendent's Advisory Council.

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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 \$100 million in assets and administers more than 1,100 philanthropic funds and planned gifts. MCF's accreditation through the Council on Foundations' National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations ensures MCF complies with the strictest standards in gift administration and grantmaking. Since its founding, MCF has reinvested more than \$61 million in Montana through scholarships, grants, and operations.