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Wood River Women's Foundation Awards Record \$504k to 27 Local Nonprofits

The Wood River Women's Foundation (WRWF), a giving collective of 300 philanthropic women, raised and awarded a record \$503,647 to support the remarkable efforts of 27 Idaho nonprofit organizations serving Blaine County. Since its founding in 2005, WRWF has awarded 242 grants totaling \$3.95 million to nonprofits in the Wood River Valley.

The Foundation's 2024 grants pool topped its previous year's total by nearly \$151,000. For the third consecutive year, WRWF not only met but surpassed its previous collective giving efforts as members rallied together to answer the call from local nonprofits. The record pool size enabled the foundation to fund more nonprofits in 2024 than it had in any previous year and to fully fund all applicants that were on the final ballot.

"Our members have truly outdone themselves with their generosity this year," said Foundation President Sandy McCullough. "They are stepping up in response to the compelling needs we see throughout the valley, evident in the dozens of applications we received. It's a privilege for us to continue supporting our nonprofit partners who work tirelessly to provide essential and enriching services to our community."

This year, WRWF members have chosen to allocate funds to a diverse array of nonprofit organizations, ranging from those offering crucial housing and legal assistance to providing nourishing meals for students, empowering education programs, invigorating outdoor initiatives, vital medical transportation services, enriching arts programming, and beyond. Several nonprofits received first-time WRWF funding including The Liberty Theater Company, Mountain Rides and The Trailing of the Sheep Parade.

“Our grant process not only offers our members an insightful view into the impactful work being carried out by nonprofits in the valley but also equips them with the necessary tools to evaluate grant proposals effectively,” explained Linda Segre, WRWF Grants Co-Chair. “This year, our team was thrilled to receive applications from several nonprofits that had never previously applied for WRWF funding. We appreciate the opportunity to lend our support to their invaluable endeavors.”

WRWF is a collective of women who pool their contributions in order to achieve greater community impact while advancing their philanthropic skills. Members also devote their time and skills to further the organizations’ mission across a variety of volunteer committees. All women are welcome to join and participate in assessing the dozens of applications received each year, and vote on the grant awards.

WRWF’s 2024 grant recipients are:

- ARCH Community Housing - Developing Workforce Housing: \$25,000
- Blaine County Charitable Fund - Emergency Financial Assistance Programs: \$25,000
- Blaine County Education Foundation - School Meals, \$25,000
- Blaine County Recreation District - Quigley PistenBully SnowCat: \$25,000
- Far + Wise - New Elementary Cohort: \$25,000
- Flourish Foundation - Mindful Awareness Program - \$25,000
- Friends of the Sawtooth Avalanche Center - Community Avalanche Awareness Education: \$20,000
- Girls On The Run - Youth Development: \$10,000
- Higher Ground Sun Valley - Cycling Program: \$20,000
- Idaho BaseCamp - Sahm 5th Grade Program: \$25,000
- Kiwanis - Hop Porter Performance Stage: \$25,000
- Mountain Rides - Non-Emergency Medical Transport: \$25,000
- North Blaine County Fire District - Greenhorn Housing Landscaping: \$25,000
- RotaRun Ski Club - History Preservation Project: \$20,000
- Sun Valley Museum of Art - PreK-12th Grade Enrichment: \$20,000
- Swiftsure Therapeutic Ranch - Care For Our Horses: \$25,000
- The Alliance of Idaho - Project Solo: \$25,000
- The Community Library - Computers and Internet Access: \$16,400
- The Liberty Theater Company - Pay What You Feel Tickets: \$10,000
- The Spot - Young Company Education: \$13,200
- The Thrival Foundation - Self-defense for women and children: \$5,000
- Trailing of the Sheep Festival - Big Sheep Parade: \$5,000

- Unega Mountain Dog Rescue - Intake Barn and Translator: \$15,000
- Wood River Baseball - Pitching Mounds: \$8,546
- Wood River Legacy Softball - Girls Softball: \$8,500
- Wood River Community Orchestra - Operating Expenses: \$7,000
- Wood River Community YMCA - Summer Education: \$25,000

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