

Local Media & IDA July 1, 2020

MISSOULA DOWNTOWN FOUNDATION SUPPORTS DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES WITH \$100,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MISSOULA-AREA BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

Over the course of the last eight weeks, the Missoula Downtown Foundation (MDF) has raised \$101,500 to support Downtown businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 73 Downtown businesses have received financial support to cover non-payroll expenses. Nearly 60 Missoula-area businesses and individuals contributed to the Foundation's spring campaign to support Downtown businesses during this unprecedented time of economic uncertainty.

"I can't express how appreciative MCT is for the support we have received from the Downtown Foundation," said Michael McGill, Executive Director of MCT, which lost its spring and summer tours. "Everyone is doing the best they can, and support like this reminds us that we are not alone."

In addition to contributions from several individuals and anonymous entities, businesses that contributed to the Business Support Fund include:

- A&E Design
- Clearwater Credit Union
- Cognizant ATG
- Dick Anderson Construction
- First Interstate Bank
- First Montana Bank
- First Security Bank
- Stockman Bank
- Title Services

- James McDonald
- John Talbot
- Missoula Radio Broadcasters Association
- Montana Scotch Whiskey Society
- #MontanaStrong
- Opportunity Bank
- Partners Creative
- TrailWest Bank
- Williams Law Firm

"It's an honor to be able to support our Downtown community and the businesses who make Downtown such a wonderful place to work," said Chris Martison, Principal Architect at A&E Design at 222 North Higgins. "It's not common to have a business-to-business giving opportunity. The Missoula Downtown Foundation did a wonderful thing to create opportunities to support our locally-owned businesses."

Since 2010, the Missoula Downtown Foundation has served to support and promote Missoula through enhancement of Downtown, now and for future generations. The Foundation has raised and invested over one million dollars in Downtown projects and programs, including Caras Park improvements, holiday décor, the lighting of the pedestrian bridges, wayfinding, place-making projects, planning and more.

"Missoula is such a special place, and it's the local business owners and employees who make the Downtown experience so personal and memorable," said Jared Kuehn, President of the MDF Board of Directors and commercial lender at First Security Bank. "The Foundation Board was all in on pivoting the spring campaign from holiday decorations to the Business Support Fund, and it was a wonderful experience for everyone to distribute checks in person to our Downtown businesses. There is nothing better than supporting those who make our community so special!"

For more information on the Missoula Downtown Foundation and the Downtown Business Support Fund, visit https://www.missouladowntown.com/ or contact the Downtown Missoula Partnership office via email (info@missouladowntown.com) or phone (406-543-4238).

Downtown Missoula: Connecting Our Community!