

Swan Valley Community Foundation

2025

3rd Annual Community Celebration

Community Service Awards

Community Grants

2nd Annual YOER

Scholarships

Aging Well



Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!



Community Celebration

Tuesday June 24th, 2025, 4:30 - 8:30
Third Annual Dinner Celebrating Community

Swan Valley Community Foundation Buffet Dinner, Music, Awards, and Auction

Have dinner on us, support our community and visit with your neighbors.
Make new friends while enjoying the evening music and a fine meal.
Help celebrate the Spring 2025 Scholarship Awards, Community Grants, and Community Service Awards.

RSVP now to get your reservation Special private event at the Hungry Bear Grill

RSVP to Yvonne Kinsey at 406-499-0321 or email rsvp@swanvalleyfoundation.org

RSVP requires your name, attendee names, entrée choice for each and your contact information including phone number, email or USPS address. Yvonne will respond and confirm your reservation. Space is limited to first come first served basis and only Valley Residents with RSVP confirmed by June 16th will be able to attend.

Come dine & visit with friends and neighbors Doors open at 4:30 and buffet begins at 5:15

Buffet Menu:

Prime Rib,
Baked potato, salad, garlic toast
Grilled Salmon Fillet
Rice pilaf, salad, garlic toast
Grilled Chicken Alfredo
Salad, garlic toast
All entrees include dessert

Music by:

Wild Wind



There is no charge for the Community Celebration. Donations are welcomed.



For more information see <https://www.swanvalleyfoundation.org/community-gathering-celebration/>
P.O. Box 961, Swan Valley, Montana 59826 www.swanvalleyfoundation.org



“Community Service Awards”

2025

The Foundation recognizes and celebrates community minded spirit in our valley at the Annual Community Celebration.

The Swan Valley is blessed with community minded people supporting a number of projects and services that make our valley a better place to live. Often that work is quietly done behind the scenes.

Vern Sharp Community Service Award

This annual award established in 2023 is given to an individual that has tirelessly volunteered their time and efforts to maintain, improve or enhance the Swan Valley Community, often with little or no public recognition. This year it was given to John Tapp. It is commemorated with a photograph with special meaning to the recipient.



Swan Valley Community Service Awards

In 2025, the Foundation recognized outstanding community service over many years by Anne Dahl, and Tori Matthew.

Later this year, the Foundation is introducing a new process for nominating and selecting individuals and groups for community service awards. These awards will be presented at the Annual Aging Well event.

At the Community Celebration last year we received quite a number of comments about the value of the Community Celebration. Along with that was the sense that it is important to honor and recognize the “goodness” in our community. The Swan Valley Community Foundation is committed to fostering community spirit and honoring it through our Community Service Awards.



Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!



“Community Grant Awards”

Spring 2025

The Swan Valley Community Foundation received seven Spring 2025 Community Grants requests. All these were high quality requests. All were funded.

Grant recipients

American Legion Post 063 requested \$1,000 for supporting food fellowship and gatherings for local veterans that have served our nation. The foundation found this so worthy that they awarded it \$1,500.
Devannie Burke

Alpine Artisans Inc. requested \$1,500 to support arts in the Swan Valley School with school workshops and concerts. Awarded \$1,500
Jenny Rohrer

Upper Swan Valley Historical Society requested \$1,500 to refurbish and seal logs on the 48 year old museum. Awarded \$1,500
Steve Lamar

Swan Valley Community Library requested \$1,500 to replace the worn out front door with a new door that matches the new doors on the front of the Community Hall. This also supports the community efforts at sprucing up the Community Hall area. Awarded \$1,500
Jenny Kauffman

Swan Valley PTA requested \$1,500 matching grant for the Missoula Children's Theater Program for Swan Valley School. This is a long standing tradition for elementary students in the Swan Valley and is regularly supported by the SVCF. Awarded \$1,500
Kitty Logan

SMAAART requested \$1,500 to supplement funding for Friday Club Activities for Swan Valley students. Awarded \$1,500
Kate Lewis

Swan Valley Elementary School Special Projects, library renovation requested \$1,500 as seed money to help obtain matching grants to support renovation project. Awarded \$1,500
Renee Sanning

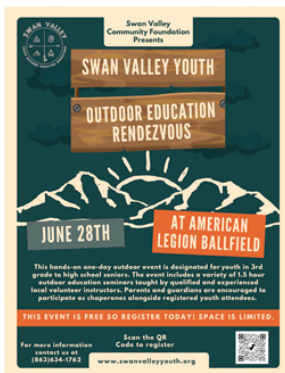
Total Grants Awarded for Spring 2025 \$10,500

In 2024 the Foundation was able to fund \$5,830 in Community Grants. The increase in 2025 is the direct result of your donations and charitable gifts. As an all volunteer organization, the Swan Valley Community Foundation returns 100% of all donations and gifts back to the community through small grants, scholarships, youth programs like YOER, community service awards, and annual community events like the Aging Well Gathering and the Community Celebration.



Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!





"YOER 2025"

The second annual Swan Valley Youth Outdoor Education Rendezvous was held on June 28th. What a beautiful day with temperatures in the 70s. A light breakfast was followed by sessions offering 12 different activities. A short lunch break, and then more sessions with fun activities. In the afternoon while they enjoyed their last workshops a light breeze carried the enticing aroma of the real Montana BBQ rib dinner creating anticipation and appetite

among participants. They gathered to receive prizes including a dutch oven, bows, fishing rods and \$100 outdoor equipment certificates. The delicious rib dinner was followed by a softball game. The 2025 second annual YOER! was A Big Success!



Fly casting with Libby Stultz and Bent Fly Fishing Montana



They learned that you have to think during wildlife encounters, not react from naturalist Tom Parker



They learned about canine safety in the woods

2025 Activities include

- Fly Casting
- Basics of Archery
- Back Country First Aid
- Wildlife Encounters Safety Training
- Protect your dog in the wild
- ONX Class
- Back Country Stock Packing
- Dutch Oven Cooking in the wild
- Preparing for Backcountry Hikes
- Montana Fur Trapping
- Classic Wall Tent Setup
- Wildlife Tracks and Signs



They explored archery with Nicole Tindale, Flaming Arrow Archery Shop



They learned how to use a dutch oven with Johnnie Dunlap of Buck Creek Outfitters



They Learned how to set up wall tents with John Keller

June 28th, 2025 Schedule of events

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Registration & breakfast
 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. – Session 1
 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. – Session 2
 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. – Lunch
 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Session 3
 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Session 4
 4:00 p.m. – BBQ and door prizes
 5:30 pm – Community softball game



The barbecue was delicious and the kids loved it



First Aid Skills with Racheal Vargas, Montana Health and Safety Training.



They learned about trapping safety from Ron Ream, and Clint Morgan.



They learned about animal tracking from Sarah Lamar of Northwest Connections



They learned how to prepare for backcountry hikes with Tom Berkley and John Haliman



Lots of big smiles



They learned about horse and mule packing and how to manly up a load from Colton Dunlap and Buck Creek Outfitters.



They learned how to use the ONX Hunt application with outdoor TV Personality and ONX pro staffer Lake Pickle.



And the wonderful smells of Holl Hubbard's real down home barbecue started folks on building a big appetite.



Thank you very much Board Member Fred and his wife Maria Fanizzi for all their hard work planning, organizing, preparing and putting this event together for the Swan Valley. We are really looking forward to this annual event June 28th in 2025...

A great big thank you to everybody for pitching in.

Youth Programs

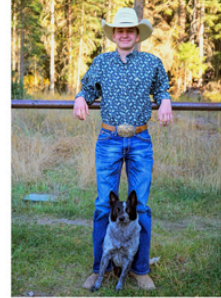
Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!



"Scholarships"

Congratulations 2025 Swan Seniors!

Cameron Hadley is a recipient of a scholarship presented by The Swan Valley Community Foundation to a recent high school graduate from the Condon area. Cameron graduated from Seeley-Swan High School with a GPA of 3.5. Cameron enjoys ranch work, working with animals, choir, drama, and art. He was recently awarded an honorable mention for a clay sculpture of a chess set in the community juried art show. He has also been a member of the Outdoor Club for two years. Cameron has been passionate about horses since he was seven years old, when he "fell in love with the farrier trade." He has been accepted to the Idaho Horseshoeing School in Roberts, Idaho, and he plans to attend there this fall. Cameron is a thoughtful and hard-working young man who deserves this award to pursue his dream of becoming a farrier.



Aubrey Matthew is a recipient of a scholarship presented by The Swan Valley Community Foundation to a recent high school graduate from the Condon area. Aubrey attended Seeley-Swan High School where she participated in volleyball, basketball, and track and field. She also participated in the Destination for Education program and spent ten days in Costa Rica with several of her classmates. Aubrey graduated Valedictorian of Seeley-Swan High School Class of 2025. Aubrey plans to move to Austin Texas and attend Abilene Christian University Online for a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She will then continue onto her masters and licensure to become a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. She hopes to work in the medical field and specialize in children. Aubrey is a caring and compassionate young woman and certainly deserves this award to achieve her goals.

Tate McNutt is a recipient of a scholarship presented by The Swan Valley Community Foundation to a recent high school graduate from the Condon area. Tate graduated from Seeley-Swan High School with a GPA of 3.75. As a senior, he earned "Student of the Month" and "Most Inspiring Student" awards. Tate participated in the Destination for Education program, spending ten days in Costa Rica with several of his classmates. He has a great love for this community, and is "thankful to have grown up here." An avid outdoorsman, Tate plans to study Biology and Law at Montana Tech to become a game warden in Montana, hopefully the Swan Valley. Before attending college, he will take a gap year for a work opportunity. Tate is a kind and diligent young man and certainly deserves this award to pursue his dream job of becoming a game warden.



Swan Valley Community Foundation Scholarships

In 2024 The Foundation was able to offer \$3,000 in two scholarships to two Swan Valley Seniors. In 2025 we increased the Scholarship fund to \$4,500 and selected three recipients.

The increase in 2025 is the direct result of your donations and charitable gifts. As an all volunteer organization, the Swan Valley Community Foundation returns 100% of all donations and gifts back to the community through small grants, scholarships, youth programs like YOER, community service awards, and annual community events like the Aging Well Gathering and the Community Celebration.



Youth Programs

Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!



"Aging Well In the Swan Valley"

Spring 2025

The Swan Valley is a special place with a large and active population of people who are "Aging Well."

The SVCF is committed to recognizing and supporting this. Last year we developed a directory of services for aging well. This year we started with sharing a community meal with stories, experiences, love, and laughter learned over the years. It was a great start for our first annual "Aging Well In the Swan Valley" Event.



We hosted a free luncheon at the Swan Valley Community Hall with a taco bar, drinks, door prizes and a cake auction. This was attended by about 50 people from the Swan in early April. Smoke Elser, a well known outfitter, conservationist, teacher and author, was the featured speaker. Smoke at 92 years of age is a good example of "Aging Well." He epitomizes that aging well isn't about growing older and becoming a senior. It is about growing wiser, cherishing the present, and embracing the journey ahead with grace and gratitude.

The Swan Valley Foundation will be reaching out to other organizations in the valley to collaborate and support ways to enhance Aging Well In The Swan Valley.

Board Members Deborah Hallman, Gayle Osburn and Jesse Russell are leading this effort on behalf of the SVCF. If you have an idea for the speaker at our next Aging Well in the Swan Valley event, or want to volunteer to help please let them know.



In 2024 the Foundation was able to develop a Community Service Directory. The initiation of the annual Aging Well event in 2025 is the direct result of your donations and charitable gifts.



As an all volunteer organization, the Swan Valley Community Foundation returns 100% of all donations and gifts back to the community through small grants, scholarships, Youth Programs like YOER, and events like Aging Well and the Community Celebration.

Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!



You're Invited!
Celebrate Aging in the Swan Valley
Saturday, April 5th noon-4pm
Swan Valley Community Hall

Featuring: **Smoke Elser**, member of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, a living "Legend of the West" and respected author including "Hush of the Land".

Lunch 12:15 - 1:15pm
Taco Bar prepared by the Mission Mountain Mercantile and the Swan Valley Community Foundation (SVCF). No cost, courtesy of the SVCF.



Aging isn't about growing older. It's about growing wiser, cherishing the present, and embracing the journey ahead with grace and gratitude. The Swan Valley is a special place to do that. Our celebration includes open fire, story telling, Swan Valley history, door prizes, a dessert auction and 50/50 drawing.

Door Prizes (Drawn Throughout) Include:
2-\$100 gift certificates for the HB Grill
2-\$50 gift certificates to the Merc

“How you can Help”

2025

The Swan Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) is a community oriented non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose sole purpose is the betterment of our community. The foundation incorporated in 2011 and received its non-profit 501(c)(3) status in 2012. It formally began operation in 2013. Following your suggestions made at the annual Community Celebration in 2023 and 2024, the Foundation expanded its board and developed new programs.

Our vision is a vibrant community of families living, recreating and working in the beautiful Swan Valley.

Our mission is providing resources facilitating the betterment of our community.

Our primary purpose is serving the Swan Valley Community...

Serving community needs is the only reason for our existence. SVCF is comprised of 9 non-paid board members and numerous volunteers. The organization is 100% supported by donations. All proceeds are returned to the Swan Valley Community through grants, community events and scholarships. Funds raised in 2024 from donations, events, and last year's celebration and live auction allows us in 2025 to:

Increase small grant award dollars by 180%. This year 7 Swan Valley organizations will receive a total of \$10,500. This is an increase from \$5,830 last year. Increase Scholarship awards from \$3,000 and 2 recipients to \$4,500 and 3 recipients. We are hosting three free major community events with a meal; Aging Well in the Swan, The Annual Community Celebration, and YOER for a combined cost of \$12,000. We increased seats at the Annual Celebration, from last year to 127 this year (and we still had to wait-list a number of folks). We are putting on the YOER 2025 event with additional educational classes and teachers. We are developing more community involvement in nominating and selecting service awards and moving the awards to the Aging Well Gathering.

All these events are free to the community and provide meals, gathering fellowship and increase the sense of Community in the Swan. We need your support to continue offering YOER, providing scholarships, community small grants, Aging Well Services, community service awards, and our annual Community Celebration and Dinner.

Please consider helping us today:

Support the celebration and dinner. You can use your credit card at the information tent, or use the contribution form, envelope and contribution box, or contribute cash to the donation jars.

Contact a board member and discuss ways to contribute and how to target your contribution generating matching funds from the Montana Community Foundation.

Volunteer to help with projects or serve on the Board. You can sign up at the information tent.

Contact a board member and suggest a worthy individual or group for a Community Service Award or suggest a speaker for the Aging Well Gathering.

Last year we received a number of comments on the value of the SVCF celebration - there was a sense that it is important to honor and recognize the “goodness” in our community. The SVCF is committed to fostering community spirit and honoring it where it is found. And we are clear that it is found in our community.

As 92 year old Smoke Elser, our featured speaker at the First 2025 Aging Well Gathering said:

“Wow, this is really great, I have been in a lot of small Montana communities over the years and you people really have it, a wonderful sense of Community Spirit that you just don't see that much anymore.”

We agree with Smoke!

Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!



“Thank You”

2025

We have so many people to thank and we apologize in advance if we miss anybody.

Thank you to all the folks participating in the Aging Well Gathering, the Community Celebration, YOER and other events in 2025. And thank you to all the people that helped make those events a success.

Thank you to all those who donated funds to keep the Foundation operating and making it possible to deliver its programs to the Swan Valley.

Thank you to the organizations that have contributed time, money, and resources to the Foundation.

*Christi Barr is extraordinary in her willingness to help, her clear thinking and her always ready sense of humor. She is an excellent accountant and keeps our books in order, even as she attempts to avoid being photographed...
Thank you Christi!*



*Maria Fanizzi. When Fred joined the board he told us we were getting two for one. And they are a team to be reckoned with. They plan and put together the very successful YOER program and we all are very happy about that.
Thank you Maria!*

From Right to Left Below:

Colleen Harrington, Fred Fanizzi, Yvonne Kinsey, Deborah Hallman, John Hallman, Suzanne Phillipus, Jesse Russell, Gayle Osburn, John Mercer



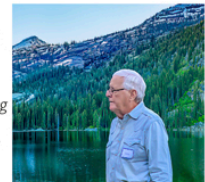
The Board at a recent work meeting.



Thank you to Ralph King, Board Member Emeritus who is taking a leave of absence. We hope you can come back soon.

And thank you Board Member Emeritus Ken Donovan, R.I.P. We miss you Brother.

Thank you to Board Member Emeritus, John Tapp, who gave 13 years of faithful service to the Swan Valley Community Foundation. Including managing The RSVP and logistics of the first two Celebrations. He is off celebrating a special birthday.



Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!



"Contact"

2025



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admin@swanvalleyfoundation.org
<http://swanvalleyfoundation.org/>

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Board Support

Christi Barr, CPA	PO Box 1242 Condon, MT 59826	christi@barrcpapc.com	406-261-0869
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Emeritus

Ken Donovan	2011-2024
Ralph King	2018-2025
John Tapp	2012-2025



Thank you Swan Valley Residents and Community!

