2020 in Review
An Unprecedented Year

How will 2020 be remembered? For us at Spur, the lasting memory of this year will be witnessing the exceptional generosity of our community. The depth of compassion in the Wood River Valley through donations and action – immediately, often, and everywhere – continually impressed us.

Nonprofits in our valley were among the heroes of 2020. They adapted and expanded their services under radically different circumstances. They collaborated and communicated with each other like never before, ensuring coordination of services and information sharing. Spur is proud to have played a role in many of these discussions and intends to nurture these connections, so they endure.

Donors fueled the engine of the good work done by nonprofits. At Spur, we were honored to help donors give impactfully in new ways by inviting them to contribute to discretionary funds like our Community Response Fund. Grants from Spur’s funds were awarded efficiently and in denominations that made an immediate difference to the recipient organizations.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we will continue to inspire effective philanthropy through a three-tiered approach: 1) helping donors find their philanthropic fit, 2) fostering excellence among nonprofits, and 3) making grants that address important needs in our community. We will stay close to the issues, programs, and nonprofits. It is an honor and a privilege to be doing this work in a community that models the power of philanthropy so well.

Thank you for your engagement with Spur. The circumstances of the past year accelerated our growth and confirmed the case for having a local community foundation. We are excited to expand upon that role in the years ahead.

Sally Gillespie
Executive Director

Tim Wolff
Founder and Board Chair

Some 2020 granting highlights we’re especially proud of:

- **$45,000** to provide Blaine County students with internet connectivity and to improve the efficiency of distance learning
- **40,000** to support COVID-safe and enriching summer programs for children through the BCRD and Wood River Community YMCA
- **$35,000** to expand senior meal delivery services through the Senior Connection
- **$35,000** to provide financial assistance to people facing hardships through the Blaine County Charitable Fund
- **$30,000** to launch a bilingual extension of the Crisis Hotline and a door-to-door outreach program for Hispanic families
- **$18,000** to certify 14 Wood River Valley residents as trainers in the CRM technique for reducing the impact of mental and emotional traumas
Convenings: In 2020, Spur brought together groups of nonprofits working on the same issues – including education and vulnerable populations – to help encourage communication and collaboration throughout the nonprofit sector. These efforts led to greater peer-to-peer understanding and partnerships.

Assessment Process: Spur continues to engage nonprofits in a voluntary assessment process that results in a deep understanding of their strengths, challenges, goals and opportunities. Five new organizations participated and one completed an updated version in 2020.

Leadership Coaching: Spur’s Leadership Coaching provided individualized training to three nonprofit executive directors to help them lead their organizations more effectively. We look forward to enrolling another class in 2021, our fifth year of the program.

Sector Advocacy: Spur’s Executive Director represented the nonprofit sector on the steering committee of the Blaine County Recovery Committee, ensuring that the needs of nonprofits were included in county-wide efforts to navigate the impact of the pandemic.

DISCRETIONARY GRANT ACTIVITY

Local recipients of discretionary fund grants in 2020

The Advocates
ARCH Community Housing Trust
The Argyros
BCRD
Blaine County Charitable Fund
Blaine County Education Foundation
Crisis Hotline
Flourish Foundation
Friends of the Hailey Public Library
Hailey Chamber of Commerce
Hailey Ice
Hospice and Palliative Care of the Wood River Valley
The Hunger Coalition

Men’s Second Chance Living
Mountain Humane
Mountain Rides
Sun Valley Culinary Institute
Sun Valley Institute for Resilience
Sun Valley Museum of Art
Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation
Sun Valley Wellness Institute
The Senior Connection
The Space
Swiftsure Ranch
Wood River Community YMCA
Wood River Land Trust
Wood River Trails Coalition

$724,500
GRANTED TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

$14,490
AVERAGE GRANT AMOUNT

50
NUMBER OF GRANTS
DOLLARS OUT

$1,531,000
TOTAL DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED

56%
GRANTED FROM DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

44%
GRANTED FROM DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

DOLLARS IN

EIGHT DONOR ADVISED FUNDS
$1,171,134

COMMUNITY RESPONSE
$283,265

MEMORIAL
$369,333

FOCUS
$105,750

CORE IMPACT
$200,765

OPERATIONS
$204,239

$2,334,510
TOTAL DOLLARS RECEIVED

84
TOTAL DONORS

53
DONORS TO DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND
When the pandemic began to take its toll on the Wood River Valley, Spur was able to quickly respond to emerging needs. We established the Community Response Fund and began granting immediately to address acute needs.

$283,265
TOTAL DONATED TO THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND

40
TOTAL GIFTS

17
TOTAL GRANTS

$235,000
TOTAL AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED BY THE END OF 2020

We continue to accept donations to the Community Response Fund and will make more grants in 2021 to address critical, unmet needs.

100% of Spur's operating expenses are paid by board members, advisors, and special donors. No fees are assessed from charitable contributions.
OUR MISSION

TO INSPIRE
By being a unique and valued resource for results-oriented donors who love the Wood River Valley and providing a superior giving experience

EFFECTIVE
By fostering nonprofit excellence and accountability through assessments, capacity building, outcome reporting, and convening conversations

PHILANTHROPY
By granting locally based on knowledge of the issues and opportunities in the community while managing philanthropic capital with fiduciary excellence

DONOR TESTIMONIALS

"The Spur Community Foundation has been a game changer in facilitating good decision-making in giving back to the Wood River Valley, as well as acting as advisors and consultants for the nonprofit organizations themselves, with a common goal of improving the quality and efficacy of these programs to better our community as a whole."
- Kim Kawaguchi and Bob Disbrow

"What attracted us to Spur was the ability to get information about all Wood River Valley nonprofits in one place. Spur understood our gifting preferences and was able to match them to organizations that had the most immediate need. We highly recommend Spur Community Foundation as your gifting resource."
- Sandy and Jody Sanders

"The devastation wrought on our community by the pandemic made me realize that more than good intentions are needed to help the community survive. I committed my financial support on a regular basis to Spur’s Community Response Fund. My good intentions have really paid off – the Community Response Fund is a winner."
- Susan Blair

OUR TEAM

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