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Press Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SPUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$360,000 TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Ketchum, ID – Spur Community Foundation, an organization dedicated to inspiring effective philanthropy in the Wood River Valley, made \$364,012 in grants to 21 local nonprofit organizations in the first of four grant cycles offered this year.

Spur's granting capacity is made possible by individuals who value Spur as a resource for their local philanthropy. Spur holds a variety of Funds with distinct purposes from which it makes grants. People interested in contributing in the Wood River Valley donate to the Funds which best fit their interests. These gifts are pooled with other donations and granted collectively to the causes Spur selects, based on knowledge of local needs and opportunities and on the proposals received.

This recent grant cycle was open to all 70+ nonprofits who actively serve the local community. Twenty-six grant proposals were received. The average amount distributed per grant was \$17,334. Spur bases grant decisions on the merits of each proposal and the amount of money available in funds that align with the purpose of the requests received.

Spur's grants process requires applicants to declare specific goals that will be achieved with the funding. Grant recipients must report back to Spur about the results achieved, lessons learned, and the future of the work supported by the grant.

"The reporting process assures accountability but also fosters confidence in the ongoing work of a grantee," said Spur Executive Director Sally Gillespie. "We take a partnership approach to helping strategically focused and effective organizations pursue their missions."

One of the largest pools of money in this granting cycle came from the Marilyn Rivera Memorial Fund, established in the name of Marilyn Rivera after her death in 2019. Thanks to the generosity of Marilyn's friends and family, her legacy continues to benefit the community.

*Spur Community Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. EIN 81-2375057*

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**SpurFoundation.org**  
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Overall, causes supported through the 21 grants include 40% of granting to education programs, 35% to health and human service-related causes, and 25% to environmental or animal causes.

Kristy Heitzman, Executive Director of the Blaine County Education Foundation, said, “We are so grateful for Spur’s grant to help increase the amount of academic support provided outside of normal school hours to students at all eight public schools in the District. With a straightforward process and direct communications, Spur continually demonstrates its commitment to helping nonprofits get real work done and to make a difference in the lives of students we serve.”

Starting with this cycle, Spur is introducing an online catalog of needs and opportunities related to the proposals they received. The catalog can be accessed via Spur’s website. Anyone can donate online to programs or Funds that catch their interest. Other than standard credit card fees deducted by the processor, 100% of each donation will go to the selected causes.

Spur accepts grant proposals year-round and evaluates them at grants committee meetings scheduled four times per year. The next meeting will be June 16, 2021. Future granting will be subject to the funds available at that time.

Founded in 2016, Spur's mission is to inspire effective philanthropy for the Wood River Valley. We seek to:

- Expand funding to the nonprofit sector
- Foster excellence and accountability among local nonprofits
- Assist donors with their charitable giving

Spur’s operational expenses are funded by its board members, a group of advisors, and small cohort of donors.

If you are interested in giving, granting, or learning more about Spur, please visit [SpurFoundation.org](http://SpurFoundation.org) or call Spur at (208) 450-2600.

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