Introduction

For many in the Wood River Valley, 2021 was a year of challenges. It also proved to be a year of solutions.

From our vantage point at Spur, 2021 was a year of possibilities and resilience; of collaboration and growth. It was a year when neighbors and organizations came together to tackle new and ongoing issues facing our valley with ingenuity and insight. And because of all this—because, time and time again, our community rose to the challenge—2021 was a year of hope.

Our work gives us a front row seat to the who, what, where, why, when and how of the Wood River Valley’s nonprofit community, and in 2021, we were continually impressed and inspired by what we saw. Spur’s nonprofit assessment process, the fourth year of our executive director coaching program, and our inaugural eight-part seminar for nonprofit board chairs all deepened our relationship with the not-for-profit community. Our granting process attracted applications from 42 organizations, showcasing the wide range of ways that the ecosystem of local nonprofits is growing and evolving to meet the needs of the moment.

Spur grew and evolved in 2021 as well. We expanded our staff to three full-time employees and adopted a new technology platform designed to scale our donation processing, grant making and fund management. The wisdom of these investments was proven in the second half of the year when we agreed to serve as custodian of funds for the city of Ketchum’s Warm Springs Preserve campaign. We also dove headfirst into the housing arena, creating a Community Housing Fund and taking a seat at the table with other local organizations, entities, and individuals working to address one of our community’s most pressing issues.

When 2021 began, there was no way of knowing what the year would hold. As we move into 2022, the future is just as uncertain. The next year will likely bring its own challenges. But if the past twelve months are any indicator of what lies ahead for our community, there is ample reason to be hopeful.

Gratefully,

Sally Gillespie
Executive Director

Carol Nie
Board President
2021 by the numbers...

Spur distributes grants from two types of funds: discretionary and advised. Advised grants are made at the recommendation of Donor Advised Fund holders. Discretionary grants are awarded based on applications received and evaluated by our Grants Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

### MONEY IN
- **$9.9M** in donations & pledges
  - includes Warm Spring Preserve

### MONEY OUT (DISCRETIONARY AND ADVISED)
- **$2.49M** total distributed
  - up 36% from 2020
- **$800K** in discretionary grants
- **759** donors
- **175** total distributions
- **60** discretionary grants
- **$2.36M** donations to Spur funds
- **69** total grantees
- **42** discretionary grantees
- **62** donors to Spur funds
- **$14.2k** average grant
- **$13.3k** average discretionary grant
Some highlights...

IN 2021, SPUR...

CREATED
the Community Housing Fund, a special purpose fund to benefit programs, projects, and organizations aimed at increasing or maintaining the supply of housing that is affordable to local workers.

ADOPTED
new technology that makes the grant process, donations, and fund management accessible through online portals for nonprofits and donors.

SERVED
as custodian of funds and processed donations for the city of Ketchum’s Warm Springs Preserve campaign, with over 700 donors raising $7.6M as of December 31, 2021.

LAUNCHED
a new leadership coaching program for local nonprofit board chairs.

EXPANDED
our staff to three full-time employees.

CONTINUED
offering our services for free to donors and nonprofits
Meet our 2021 grantees

2021 DISCRETIONARY GRANT RECIPIENTS

- The Advocates
- Alliance of Idaho
- ARCH Community Housing Trust
- Blaine County Charitable Fund
- Blaine County Education Foundation
- Blaine County Recreation District
- Camp Rainbow Gold
- The Community Library
- The Crisis Hotline
- Environmental Resource Center
- Flourish Foundation
- Girls on the Run of the Wood River Valley
- Hailey Chamber of Commerce
- Hailey Ice
- Hospice and Palliative Care of the Wood River Valley
- I Have a Dream Foundation
- Idaho Basecamp
- Lee Pesky Learning Center
- Mountain Humane
- Mountain Rides
- NAMI of the Wood River Valley
- The Nature Conservancy
- Rotarun Ski Club
- Sawtooth Society
- The Senior Connection
- Swiftsure Ranch Therapeutic Equestrian Center
- Sun Valley Music Festival
- Unega Mountain Dog Rescue
- Wood River Community YMCA
- Wood River Wolf Project

Children participate in Mountain Rides’ Safe Routes program.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS BY SECTOR

- Health and Human Services 41%
- Community/Economic Development 4%
- Education 23%
- Nonprofit Capacity Building 2%
- Environment 15%
- Animal Welfare 4%
- Housing 2%
- Arts and Culture 4%
- Sports and Recreation 5%
- Nonprofit Capacity Building 2%
Inspiring effective philanthropy

Our mission is to inspire effective philanthropy in the Wood River Valley. That means working with both sides of the giving equation — donors and nonprofits — to make sure each has the resources to make as significant and meaningful an impact as possible. In doing so, Spur has built a comprehensive “knowledge library” of local philanthropic opportunities, needs, and data. This provides us with a unique perspective that allows us to assist donors more effectively, identify opportunities for local organizations and individuals to work together, and keep our finger on the pulse of the Wood River Valley’s nonprofit sector as a whole.

Assessing and Strengthening

Spur continued to offer a free assessment process for local nonprofits to provide feedback on the health of their organization, from leadership to financial and human resources practices to mission and strategic planning. The assessment process, which Spur has offered since 2016, is a unique tool that provides value to organizations and donors alike.

Coaching Local Nonprofit Leaders

We expanded our leadership coaching offerings in 2021, launching a new Board Chair Leadership Program for a class of local board chairs. Spur’s leadership coaching program for executive directors also returned for a fourth year. You can read about the experience below from two board chairs selected to participate this year.

An Educational Resource

While the COVID-19 pandemic put a damper on indoor and in-person events this past year, Spur adapted to serve as an educational resource for the community. Highlights included co-hosting a Wood River Valley nonprofit roundtable discussion series at The Argyros and hosting an outdoor event to connect philanthropically-minded community members with nonprofit leaders.

Sarah Sentilles – Board Chair, The Alliance of Idaho

“What a gift to be part of Spur’s board chair cohort. I learned so much about how to run an effective, engaged board — from nuts and bolts policy issues, to how to fundraise better, to how to match our organization’s needs with our board members’ passions. I feel prepared to support The Alliance as it works to fulfill its mission.”

Alicia Hollis – Board Chair, Blaine County Education Foundation

“I learned a great deal from Spur’s Board Chair Leadership Program and especially appreciated the insight and guidance of Sally and the other speakers. The program helped me to see what I need to do to improve in my current role as board chair and how to better support my executive director. The skills acquired will allow me to positively impact philanthropy in our valley in the future.”
"I was unaware of Spur until they got involved with the City [of Ketchum]’s purchase of the property in Warm Springs. My family has a small family foundation and in the past we have put money with a community foundation in Texas. I was really excited to have our funds here in Ketchum. I reached out to Sally Gillespie and she was so helpful in helping us set up a donor advised fund account. The donation process is very user-friendly. I was also pleased that Spur does not charge for their services so 100% of your funds will go to the non-profit community. I am looking forward to working with Spur in the coming months on donation ideas. Spur is knowledgable and professional. We are excited about our relationship going forward."

-Christine Kraatz
Donor Advised Fund Owner

"My husband Bruce and I donate to a number of nonprofits. It was always a complicated process. Then we found Spur. The process now is so quick and easy. The advice from Spur about local needs is so helpful. As I now say, our donations with Spur are just a click away!"

-Barry Karas
Donor Advised Fund Owner
Impact reports cater to a variety of audiences, so it’s best to adjust it accordingly. First, identify your target reader. Next, you can shift your focus on what they need to know. For example, your future plans are in the interest of your beneficiaries. Some readers might prefer details like a breakdown of your funding while others, like your trustees, will be more interested in the challenges you encountered and the lessons you learned from them.

### 2021 Goals and Results

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- **Granting**
  - **Goal**: $1.5
  - **Result**: $2.49

- **Donations**
  - **Goal**: $2
  - **Result**: $6.77

- **Number of Donors**
  - **Goal**: 90
  - **Result**: 759
About us

OUR TEAM

Board of Directors:
Carol Nie, President
Erik Boe, Treasurer/Secretary
Jonathan Neeley
Britt Palmedo
Mary Wilson
Tim Wolff

Advisors:
Peggy Baker
Leslie Benz
Barbara Boswell
Bob Disbrow
John Dondero
Andy Jones
Lyndsay Lyle
Peter Palmedo
John Perenchio
Trina Peters
Steve Rivera
Steve Shafran
Lisa Stelck
David Tedesco
Willy Walker
Sheila Walker
Gabriela Wehner

Staff:
Sally Gillespie, Executive Director
Gretel Kauffman, Communications and Operations Associate
Luis Alberto Lecanda, Database and Reporting Associate

CONTACT SPUR
PO Box 6184
180 East Ave. N.
Ketchum, ID 83340
208-450-2600
askus@spurfoundation.org

g spurfoundation.org
f@SpurCommunityFoundation
@spur_foundation
@spur_foundation

It is an honor to be of service to you and this community.