



## Mission & Vision

**Connecting people and building community by catalyzing change and sharing resources to build a strong, vibrant, resilient, inclusive community.**

### 2021-2023 Strategic Plan

“The Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of people throughout Carbon County by playing a key role in identifying and solving community issues through gracious dialogue, neutral convening, delivery of services, engaging, supporting and collaborating with community partners, and by always working together. We accomplish this by providing resources through leadership, grant making and donor services. We bring together the financial resources of individuals, families, government, and businesses to support effective nonprofits and grass root efforts in our communities.” Tracy Timmons, Executive Director

## Connected Youth

**Purpose Statement: Create a community that offers concrete support and opportunity for families, youth, and children to reach their potential as contributing members of society.**

- **Early Childhood:** Celebrate, educate, research, and advocate for kids 0-8.
  - **Early Childhood Grant Fund:** Providing funds for educational, developmental, and supportive services for children ages 0-8 including, but not limited to, childcare, preschool, caregiver education and other developmental enhancement opportunities.
  - Know and connect people with services available to them.
  - Strengthen partnerships with a variety of service providers and youth organizations.
  - Refresh, strengthen and promote the **Reading Adventure Backpacks** program at the library.
  - Expand and continue to engage the steering committee.
  - Participate in the statewide Early Childhood Co-op Education and Program opportunities.
  - Evaluation of the number of child care slots available and the number needed through ongoing assessment.
  - Work with groups to address needs for child care in Carbon County.
- In the future we would love to provide:
  - Connecting kids/families to ECI screenings.
- **Safe Sitter** – Provide quarterly courses for Safe Sitter. prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they’re home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. The Instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students learn safety skills, child care skills, first aid & rescues skills, and life and business skills.
- **Safe at Home** – Provide quarterly courses for Safe at Home a program designed for students in grades 4-6 to prepare them to be safe when they are home alone. The program is designed to enable any adult that enjoys

teaching preteens to facilitate an introductory level program to prepare students to care for themselves when parents are away for short periods of time

- **Future of Montana Volunteer Corps:** Providing volunteer opportunities to connect all youth to their community, through their individual talents and interests, to improve lives.
  - Support to reach their graduation requirement for community service.
- **Lunch in the Sun:** Coordination of the free summer lunch program for all youth, birth to 18 years old, by partnering with community organizations and community volunteers. Program is on hold pending the re-opening of the Red Lodge City Pool in June 2022.
- **Youth Enrichment Grant Fund:** Providing funds for youth who otherwise could not participate in activities by providing funding for classes, workshops, participation fees, registrations, conferences, transportation, or other products or services that support participation.
  - Increase awareness of the program, serve all of Carbon County, continue to fund diverse opportunities, and maintain/increase funds available for distribution.
- **Youth Steering Committee:** Engage youth and key youth service providers annually through dialogue to share and gather information about youth programs, resources, opportunities and to increase streamlined communication between service providers.
  - Promotion of Carbon County Connect (Youth page).
  - Creation and implementation of Youth outreach for weekly events.
  - Key constituents participate.
  - Meets first quarter of the year.
  - Agreed upon priority programs are implemented.
- Future Opportunities:
  - Creation of a centralized hub for youth opportunities.
- **Youth Workforce Development:** Connect youth with organizations and community leaders for career development opportunities through job shadowing and internships.
  - Increase the number of participants and organizations through sustainable partnerships.
  - Expand to a year-round program.
  - Increase the amount of cost shares between the Foundation and the organization.
  - Implement & analyze a required pre and post evaluation survey for participants and businesses.
  - Meet the demand for interested businesses and students.

## **Resilient Community**

**Purpose Statement: Building strong connections for a supportive community where all can thrive. Working together to strengthen the health of the community by listening and responding to needs focused on Community Mental Health, Transportation, Housing, Connection to Resources, and Age Friendly Initiatives.**

- **Carbon County Transportation:** Provide affordable and accessible transportation options county-wide by engaging community leaders in organization roles.
  - Implement Carbon County Area Ride & Transit Plan (CART).
  - Connect CART to the people who need rides and support the plan.
  - Engage community partners that contribute to the long-term success of the plan.
- **Workforce Housing:** Helping low-to-moderate individuals and families, that live and work in Carbon County secure quality affordable housing in Red Lodge whether they want to own a home or find suitable long-term rentals.
  - **Workforce Housing Steering Committee** – Facilitate meetings with the Workforce Housing committee (comprised of community volunteers and stakeholders) to support housing goals throughout the county.

- **Owner-Built Housing** – Partner with Helena Area Habitat for Humanity, and Trust Montana to build quality and efficient single-family homes for qualified people working in the Red Lodge Area
  - Increase number of local financial literacy and home purchase readiness opportunities for people in need of affordable housing.
- **Workforce Housing Policy** – Partner with local government to research, educate, and assist in the creating/implementation of policies/tools/programs that increase affordable housing options in Carbon County.
- **Workforce Housing Solar Fund** – Raise funds to install solar systems on the owner-build homes to reduce the cost of energy while becoming energy independent and sustainable.
- **Long Term Rentals**-Facilitate the committee to develop needed resources to make it easy for developers to develop long term rentals in Carbon County, such as plans, statistics, and partnership connections.
- **Volunteer Recruitment and coordination for home builds.**

## Healthy Community

- **Carbon County Connect** resource directory is kept up to date, relevant, and contains a listing of all relevant services available to the people of Carbon County.
- **Carbon County Connect Program Provider Appreciation/Lunch & Learn Events** Restart in 2022.
- **Disaster preparedness:** Manage emergent volunteers, financial and in-kind donations in the event of a community disaster. Restart in 2022.
  - Support the community disaster preparedness plan(s).
  - Trained staff member(s) to facilitate emergent volunteers.
  - Cash and In-kind donations managed.
  - Outreach assistance.
  - Complete and train for the emergency procedures workbook.
- **Overarching Community Health Statement for the City/County Created:** Utilize a comprehensive statement that unifies the community on how we define health in Carbon County. Restart in 2022.
  - Work with the City/County Community representatives to create the statement.
- **Salvation Army** - in partnership with Salvation Army, fundraise for the community grant-making fund. 90% of funds stay in Carbon County. This fund offers flexible support to those experiencing financial need of up to \$550.

## Age-Friendly Initiatives

**Purpose statement:** Create a safe and vibrant community that is inclusive to all ages and abilities. Initiatives will address aging-related concerns identified by the community; respect and consider all ideas; support people of all means and abilities; prioritize working with existing community assets; make decisions based on community input and feedback.

- **Age-Friendly Steering Committee** – Carbon County volunteers who are dedicated to creating a community that is inclusive to all ages and abilities through communication, transportation, housing, and other emergent needs.
- **Age-Friendly Carbon County Newsletter** - a quarterly newsletter written by the Age-Friendly Steering Committee that supports folks of all ages in Carbon County. The newsletter will prioritize and focus on issues, events, and voices from/in Carbon County.
- **Caring Cards** - an intergenerational, grassroots letter writing program. In partnership with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Mountain View elementary, Caring Cards aims to reduce isolation in community seniors by sending them a friendly card in the mail on a monthly basis. 5<sup>th</sup> graders have the opportunity to hone their letter writing skills and broaden their understanding of our community.

- **Firewood Assistance Program** - Providing ½ cord of free firewood to individuals and families who are physically or financially unable to procure firewood for themselves.
  - Using donated wood, volunteers process the fire wood on a monthly basis.
  - Partnership with Public Works to distribute the fire wood.
- **Navigators:** Volunteers trained to guide people in need of services through resource applications, programs, and managed grant fund applications.
- **Senior Ark** - Grant fund for seniors 65+ facing emergent, non-medical barriers to aging in their place of choice.
- **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** - In partnership with Montana DPHHS, coordinate the distribution and reimbursement of coupons to local farmers' markets for low-income seniors. Seniors are able to buy \$50 worth of fresh produce, in-turn supporting our local growers and economy!

## Community Mental Health

The goal of Community Mental Health is to:

- Educate and increase awareness of Mental Health resources while decreasing the associated stigma.
- Create a long-term approach to bring mental health programming into the entire school district.
- Create long term program options for people in the area.
- **QPR Training-** organize and facilitate QPR trainings across the community. Like CPR, Question Persuade Refer (QPR) trains on how to recognize the warning signs, clues, and suicidal communications of people in trouble, and gain skills to act vigorously to prevent a possible tragedy. Courses are held upon request.
- **Resilient Rams** - In partnership with Red Lodge High School, Resilient Rams is a science-based program that (1) addresses the mental health needs of students, (2) equips students with stress management strategies, (3) cultivates the character traits of the five pillars of Red Lodge High School, and (4) enhances students sense of competency in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and decision making. Resilient Rams is a 6-week program taught twice a year to Sophomores and Seniors.
- **States of Mind** - States of Mind is a mental health speaker series. The goal is to learn from local experts who increase knowledge and decrease stigma surrounding mental health topics in our community.

## Robust Arts & Culture

**Purpose Statement: Catalyze the development of the Red Lodge Area as a destination for arts, culture, and conferences.**

- **Educating Emerging Artists Fund:** Providing funding to artists who are in poverty and low income situations and are presented with educational opportunities that will positively impact their ability to create art as an income.
- **Roosevelt Center:** Continue to Restore, Reuse, Revitalize the Roosevelt Center into an arts, culture, performance, reception, conference, education and community gathering space, providing both indoor and outdoor venues, for people to interact, converse, celebrate and express themselves. We need these venues because our community currently lacks adequately sized downtown community spaces for people to meet and engage with one another.
  - Engaging a diversity of artistic, cultural, educational and conference activities.
  - Capital repairs and redevelopment of both buildings continues to occur.
  - Open the historic 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the 1920's building.
  - Capacity of existing arts organizations is increased.
  - New arts organizations and activities are created.
  - Permanent endowment is established and increased annually.

- Collaboration, Networking and partnerships with other organizations to bring events to the community.
- Outdoor spaces developed & gatherings taking place in them.
- Well-developed volunteer cadre to support the Center to keep it accessible.
- Business plan and committee structures streamlined.
- **Carbon County Satellite Gallery Arts Guild Partnership:** The Roosevelt Center staff will help coordinate quarterly exhibits to help showcase local artists and artwork, including Kids Month, a K-8th grade exhibit of Red Lodge and surrounding area students. Roosevelt Center staff will help coordinate openings, market each new exhibit, and hang the artwork. These quarterly exhibits will bring in additional people into the Roosevelt Center, as well as highlight Roosevelt Center tenant artwork.

## Thriving Nonprofits

**Purpose Statement: We assist in development of a thriving nonprofit sector by connecting organizations of all capacities to education, technology, professional services, financial assistance, and volunteers.**

- **Back Office Services:** Provide essential services not easily accessible to charities through other options.
  - Grant writing, fundraising, accounting, payroll and storytelling.
- **Community Grant Making:** Providing grants to Carbon County nonprofits ranging in the amount of \$100 to \$1500. These grants must meet a specific need or serve a purpose in one or more of the following categories: arts and culture, education, the environment, health, and social services.
  - **Innovative-** Request is for a new program or capacity building program that is collaborative in nature.
  - **Nonprofit Sustainability-** Request is to assist a nonprofit organization with resources that will help ensure longer term sustainability for the organization.
- **Fiscal Sponsors:** Fiscal sponsorship provides the Foundation's tax-exempt status to Carbon County grass roots efforts that align with our mission and bylaws. Fiscal sponsorship conserves precious charitable funds by supplying a streamlined set of accounting and back office services to these organizations. Fiscal sponsorships assure that the community can quickly pivot and respond to community opportunities and sudden developments, in the short term and longer term.
  - Fiscal Sponsorships are accessed by a variety of community efforts.
  - Support and capacity building for grass roots efforts to ensure community resiliency.
- **Fun Run for Charities:** Facilitate the largest collaborative fundraising event in Carbon County while maintaining the spirit of working together to raise funds for and awareness of county wide charitable efforts.
  - Match and Sponsor donations grow so the Match percentage to the charities grows.
  - Number of participants remains above 1K each year.
  - Annual Steering committee meets.
  - Charity volunteer hours are met.
  - Effectively manage event expenses to keep them low.
- **Nonprofit Café:** Develop a high quality, relevant educational offerings to charitable organizations staff and volunteers.
  - Annual survey of nonprofit education priorities administered and the results drive the selection of professional development events.
  - Events do not take place during the summer or the holiday seasons.
  - Foundation staff training opportunities are extended to charitable organizations to defray costs of trainings.

- **Pro Cut Green Fund (DAF) & Green Fund (FOIF):** Engage the High School Green Team to work collaboratively with the Pro Cut staff to support the development of green projects in Red Lodge by engaging youth as thoughtful grant makers.
- **Shared Services Center:** Provide neat, clean and technologically connected meeting spaces for community focused groups.
  - Nonprofit equipment purchased and shared to streamline asset sharing and conserve financial resources for all groups.

### **Sustainability Statement of transferring programs or projects.**

Our mission statement summarizes the purpose of the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (Foundation) as “Connecting People, Building Community.” Translating those words into action – building an intentional and inclusive community that engages people of all ages and all walks of life – is the mission of the Foundation. Fostering such a community begins with innovative ideas. The Foundation provides a forum for community members to come together to discuss important issues and share ideas for addressing them. But too many innovative ideas die on the vine if they are not supported by active leadership, engaged volunteers, and sustaining resources. Like a new born bird, newly hatched ideas for action often need a period of incubation before they can take flight on their own. The Foundation provides that period of capacity building, not only through financial support, but also by providing strategic advice on creating a sustainable organization and offering feedback that evaluates its effectiveness. **In short, we at the Foundation encourage innovative new ideas and foster their development into sustainable actions, which can then be launched into permanent homes within our community. We strive to build a community that we are all proud to call home.**

### **Historically**

Youth Mentoring Program turned to DSVS  
Fiscal Recycle Red Lodge became a 501(C)3.