

LASTING CHANGE FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH

Spring and the Promise of Tomorrow

Georgia Cady, Executive Director

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since the re-opening of our Drop-In Center and all Tumbleweed programing. The pandemic was especially hard on our Tumbleweed youth. Youth missed our in-person services and we at Tumbleweed missed them, volunteers, and our community partners.

**“One dream, one day,
one person,
one collaboration,
one donor. ”**

Our work picked up fast. We are happy to report that we have several students graduating from high school this spring. We know, statistically, people are 400 times more likely to be homeless if they do not graduate high school. Our TW youth have overcome some of life’s hardest challenges to receive their diplomas. It is a time for celebration of their amazing accomplishments!

I would like to share with a story of a young man named Christian. He utilized Tumbleweed services to their full extent for about 4 years. He found himself with no support and homeless upon turning 18. He spent most of his nights in Tumbleweed’s overnight Drop-in Center, utilized our day programming, and found himself caught up in the merry-go-round of homelessness.

Through the dedication of Tumbleweed case managers, he was able to get a job, move into his own apartment. When the opportunity presented itself through Dawson Promise at Dawson Community College, he jumped at the chance to further his education. Christian has graduated with his associates degree and heading on to get his bachelor's degree in music.



**Congrats
Christian!**

With hard work, supports, and community collaboration all things are possible. One dream, one day, one person, one collaboration, one donor... Tumbleweed thanks our wonderful community partners, volunteers, and donors.

Your support helped his dream become reality.

Our work continues with our dozens of Tumbleweed youth who are ready to navigate a healthier path in their lives.

With gratitude,

Georgia J. Cady



Our TW youth have overcome some of life’s hardest challenges to receive their diplomas and inspire us all. Congrats to all the graduates from Senior, Skyview and West High Schools & Dawson Community College.

Inside this Issue:

- *Get to know Tumbleweed and their mission to help youth in our community*
- *Joining the 505 Club*
- *Follow us and win!*
- *2022 Spring Campaign Goals*
- *Magical Moments*

Update on Faith

Our Comfort & Joy featured youth *Faith* now lives in a sober living house, and is employed. *Faith* is utilizing our partners in adult supportive services since she turned 25 and continues her journey in recovery. We thank donors who made a difference in *Faith*’s life.

Identity Protection Policy

To protect the identities of vulnerable clients who are mentioned in some of these stories, names have been altered. *Altered names will appear in Italics.*

Tumbleweed Annual Open House

Wed., June 1, 2022
4:30-6:30

Hosted by TW Youth Advisory Board
Volunteers and Donors are invited to join us
for this special event. The Youth Advisory
Board will present their Volunteer of the
Year Award, a brief program, and a Special
Announcement. **Join us!**



Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members help staff and the Tumbleweed Board of Directors with policies, procedures and advice.

Getting to Know Taren

Taren R.A. Standish, YAB member

I have been working with Tumbleweed for nine months, and have received services such as housing and mental health support, and more, such as financial classes and general life skills.

When I arrived at Tumbleweed, I was living on the streets of Billings, with not a penny in my pocket. Through the time I have spent with the staff and the programs they provide, I have found work, housing, clothing, food, emotional support, and to an extent, a family. And most importantly, friends.

We all need a support system in our lives. And that can be hard to find depending on an individual's situation. I can say there is a place for everyone here at Tumbleweed. I've done so much in my time here. I believe that has made me more progressive as a person and it's helped me with my responsibilities. It has helped me grow as a young adult.

I think of myself as a highly motivated person with a well-rounded personality. Someone with a good balance of professionalism and fun - and ultimately a reliable person.

Meeting Youth... Where They Are At...

Kayla Ballou

Three weeks into the new 2021-22 school year, we had a youth wander into Tumbleweed. *Jacob* was not enrolled in high school, in what was to be his Senior year. He was homeless, unemployed with no support in Billings, and that September day he had no plans besides coming into Tumbleweed this one time.

***"The magic of
Tumbleweed was on
overdrive on this day."***

I began chatting him up. I listened to *Jacob's* story and thought he may be eligible for the Chafee Foster Program. We quickly

confirmed that he indeed was eligible. Through additional conversation I shared the opportunities available to him.

Within 3 hours *Jacob* was able to obtain his high school transcript from his rural Montana town, enroll at one of our Billings high schools. Then it was onto transporting him to a job interview, arranging for a MET bus pass, and helping him with a bus route. We were also able to secure an apartment for him through the school year.

The magic of Tumbleweed was on overdrive on this day. *Jacob* was able to accomplish all these incredible events within three hours. It was a day I realized the work we do truly matters and can change the trajectory of these young people's lives.

Tumbleweed works closely with Montana's Department of Public Health & Human Services to coordinate eligibility. The John H. Chafee Foster Care for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program) provides funding to assist youth in foster care and young adults formerly in foster care with services and financial assistance to promote their transition to adulthood.

What's Been Going on at Tumbleweed?



Attorney General Austin Knudsen and Georgia Cady meet at the MT Human Trafficking Symposium.



Looking good! Volunteer Kristin Rapacz brings smiles to TW youth with her hair styling expertise.



Engineer Chance Burley presents Executive Director Georgia Cady with a Washington Foundation Pay It Forward donation.

Message from YAB Chair
Kyle Augustine

I'm 20 years old and I have been a client of Tumbleweed for almost 4 years, and a part of the Chafee Program [The John H. Chafee Foster Care for Successful Transition to Adulthood] for more than 7 years. The way things are done at Tumbleweed has changed over the years but their mission never has, "Lasting change for vulnerable youth". Since I've been with Tumbleweed, I have gotten my GED, am going to college, found a job, found housing, and found the therapy I need to deal with my trauma.

"I think they do a damn good job of achieving their mission."

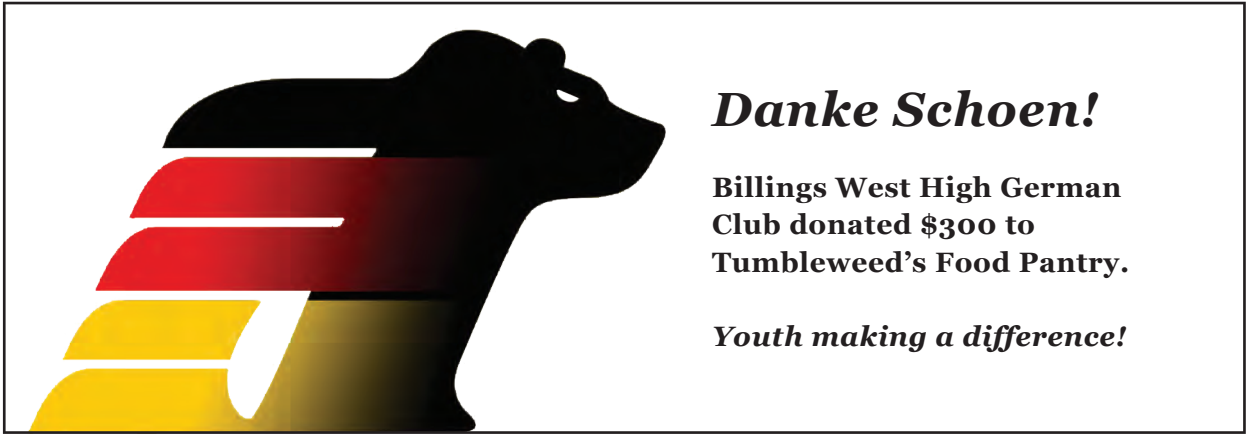
Every step of the way Tumbleweed staff have been able to open new doors, opportunities, resources and I would have never



accomplished any of the above without their dedicated support 24/7. That's every time I fall, every time life turns upside down and I have no idea which way I'm pointed, for the last 4 years.

Like I said, I'm 20 and near aging out of foster care or any care for that matter. I think they do a damn good job of achieving their mission.

Kyle is currently serving as chair of Tumbleweed's Youth Advisory Board.



Danke Schoen!

Billings West High German Club donated \$300 to Tumbleweed's Food Pantry.

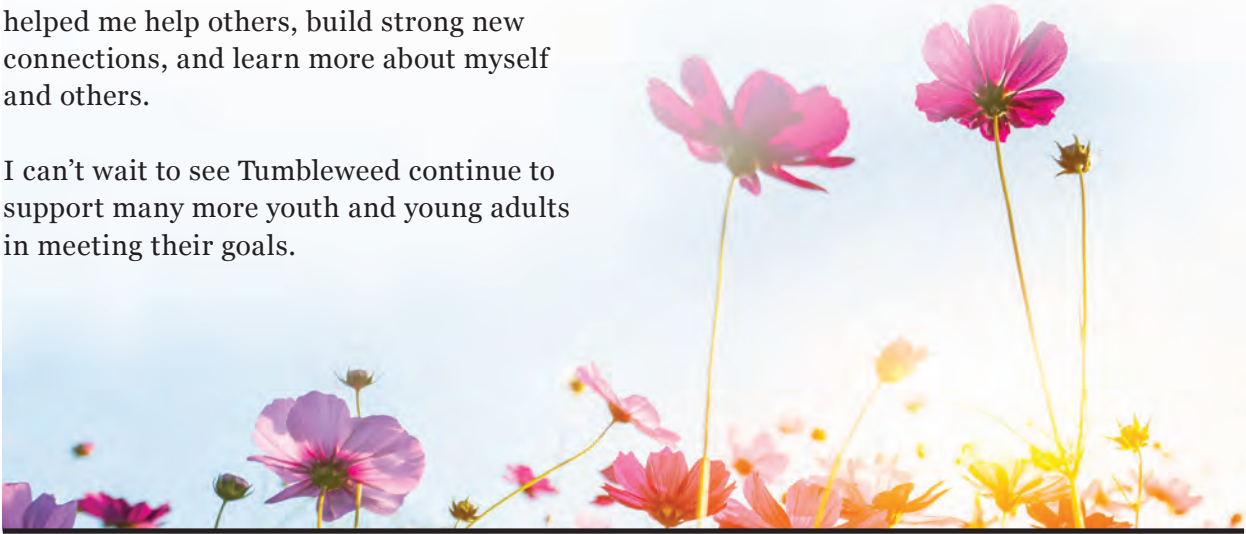
Youth making a difference!

Testimony from Angelica
Angelica Lechocinski, YAB member

My name is Angelica. I am glad that a supportive member of my life encouraged me to learn about as well as take part in Tumbleweed programs. Tumbleweed has helped me help others, build strong new connections, and learn more about myself and others.

I can't wait to see Tumbleweed continue to support many more youth and young adults in meeting their goals.

"When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower."
-Alexander Den Heijer



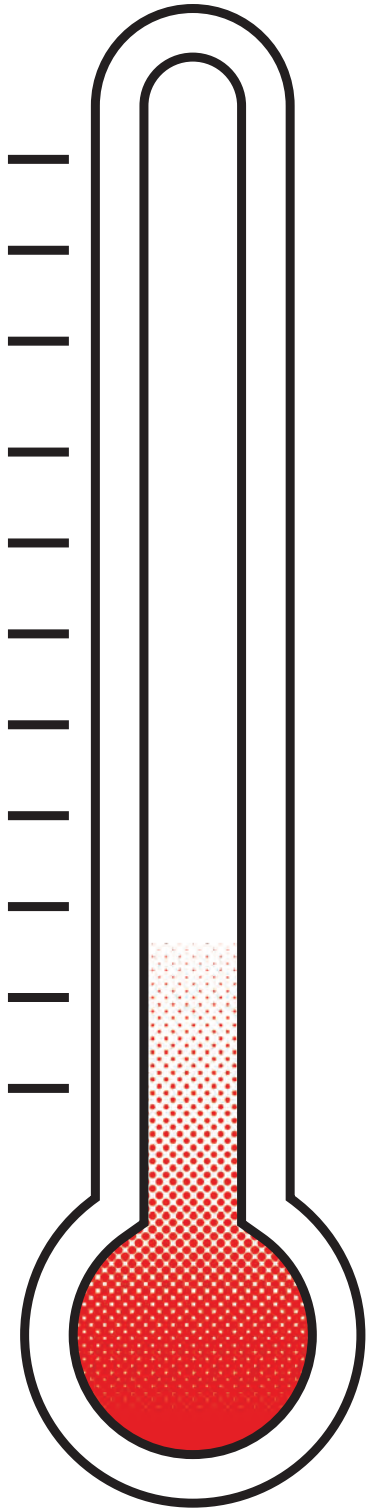
How Your Gift Helps Our Youth & Young Adults:

- **\$50**
Transportation to work or school
- **\$100**
For one unhoused youth: life skills classes, personal care/hygiene, laundry service or food for a month
- **\$250**
Access to a crisis counselor 24/7 or food for a month
- **\$650**
One month's rent for a youth
- **\$1,000**
One month's rent, groceries, and utilities for a youth; or Housing applications & deposit, bed & linens.

Thanks for Your Support!

2022
Spring
Campaign

Help us reach
our goal by
June 30, 2022!

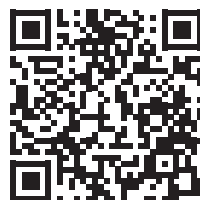


WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Tumbleweed provides safety, assistance and hope to our community's vulnerable and homeless youth, creating lasting life changes. **Your investment today makes the future better for youth.**

DONATE TODAY

Scan this code - or- use the donation form included in the back section to give by mail. **Thank You!**



Lessons Learned on Housing Youth Leads to Supported Housing; the Tumbleweed Way Everyday



**Georgia Cady,
LAC
Executive
Director**

One can say the solution to homelessness is simple – housing.

Yet that is a simple solution that comes with numerous extenuating circumstances. Simply housing a youth does not cure their ills. Supportive housing is the better answer. At Tumbleweed we have a housing program that, yes, provides housing and as importantly, provides individualized case management.

About seven years ago when I started as a case manager at Tumbleweed, I had the privilege of having a young lady—*Casey*-- on my caseload who had been homeless for several years. This led *Casey* into being trafficked to provide for her basic needs. In working with her my thoughts were “simple – find a home for *Casey*.” This I did in very short order. We went shopping for pots, pans, linens, cleaning supplies, furniture and even her very own companion pet fish. I had set *Casey* up perfect. I patted myself on the back and thought “fixed.” In my mind she would now be able to do all the things she wanted.

To my surprise *Casey* continued her daily visits to Tumbleweed to utilize our overnight shelter available at that time. I asked her why she was not staying in her apartment and her “simple” answer was, “I don’t know how to live in a house.” I was taken aback by this answer.

Valuable lesson learned—without extra support most youth are unable to maintain their housing so simply providing a roof over their heads was not enough. Through this housing journey *Casey* taught me what she needed to become successfully housed.



This led to the Tumbleweed way of housing youth and young adults who are in need and ready for an apartment:

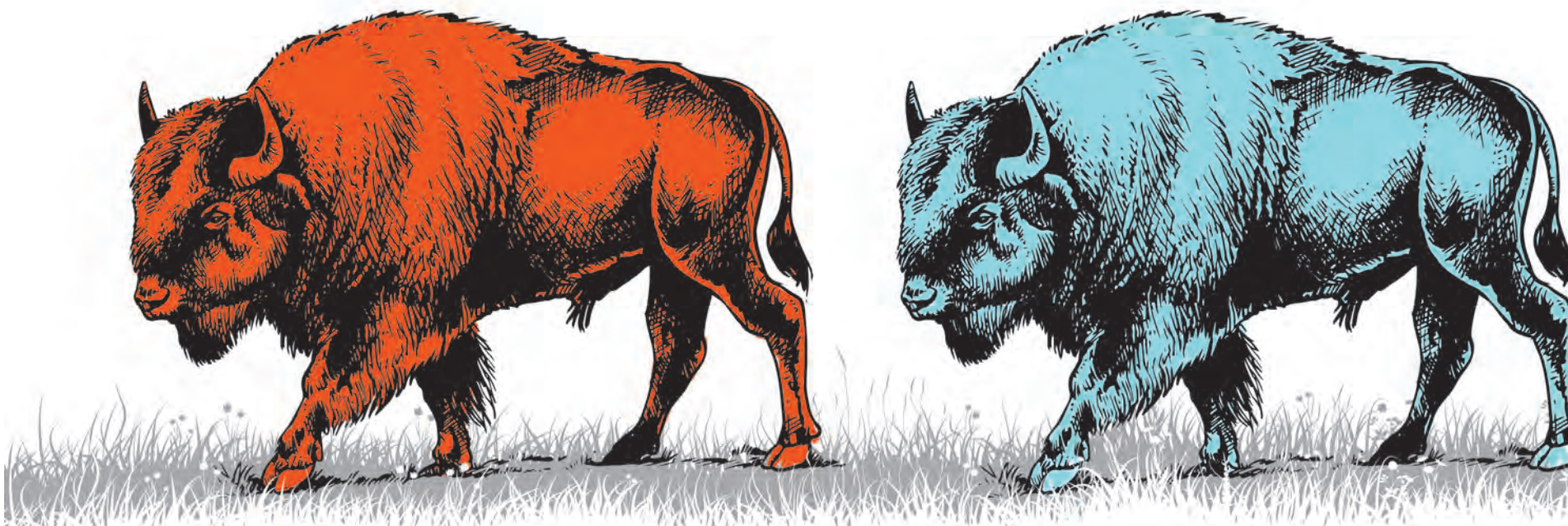
- 1 Meet each youth where they are, not where you want them to be. They may not be ready to be placed in an apartment or efficiency of their own**
- 2 Listen closely to identify their needs—spoken and unspoken—and don’t assume anything**
- 3 Assign each youth a case manager to guide them through their individualized plan for success.**

Today, Tumbleweed has a dedicated Housing Navigator to help youth find an apartment in Billings—a community with limited affordable housing. We have dedicated case managers who visit our youths’ apartments and teach them how to be a good tenant, and what it means to have their own space. This includes such guidance in apartment cleaning schedules and how to properly use

cleaning products, how to wash dishes and clothes, managing trash / recyclables and locating the proper receptacles for removal, how to cook, shop, and budget. Additional individualized training is available to teach youth how to maintain their apartment, training to find and keep stable employment, and to learn to live independently.

I asked her why she was not staying in her apartment, [she said:] “I don’t know how to live in a house.” --former TW youth

Our youth have a greater chance for lasting transformational change when adequate support is provided. This includes allowing our youth to fail, keeping our doors open for them, and picking up where they became overwhelmed, to try again.



We thank all our financial and in-kind donors, and our volunteers for their time and energy. We make every effort to properly acknowledge

Dance When You Can A Magical Moment to Remember

Brandon Warren

Many high school girls dream of their first school dance. Yet you must be enrolled in school to attend.

“Our dream is that all our TW youth and young adults experience magical moments.”

One new Tumbleweed youth had her education disrupted after being removed from her home and placed in the foster care system. Yet this did not magically solve the issues faced by this young woman. Child Protective Services referred her to Tumbleweed. A TW case manager helped her find and settle into an apartment where she could feel safe. Then it was off to assist her register and return to school. She was excited to hear the prom was scheduled for the end of her first week at one of our Billings High Schools.



She mentioned her dream to her TW case manager. Her excitement fueled the fast pace in her finding the perfect dress and shoes for this special evening. Arrangements were made for hair, make-up, corsage, and the evening's transportation.

Her dream was fulfilled! Staff know that moments like these serve as motivation for

transformation change to occur. Our dream is that all our TW youth and young adults experience magical moments.

Tumbleweed works closely with Montana's Department of Child Protective Services and Supervised Independent Living Services for youth in the foster care system.

Join our 505 Club! Recurring Gifts Make Good Things Happen

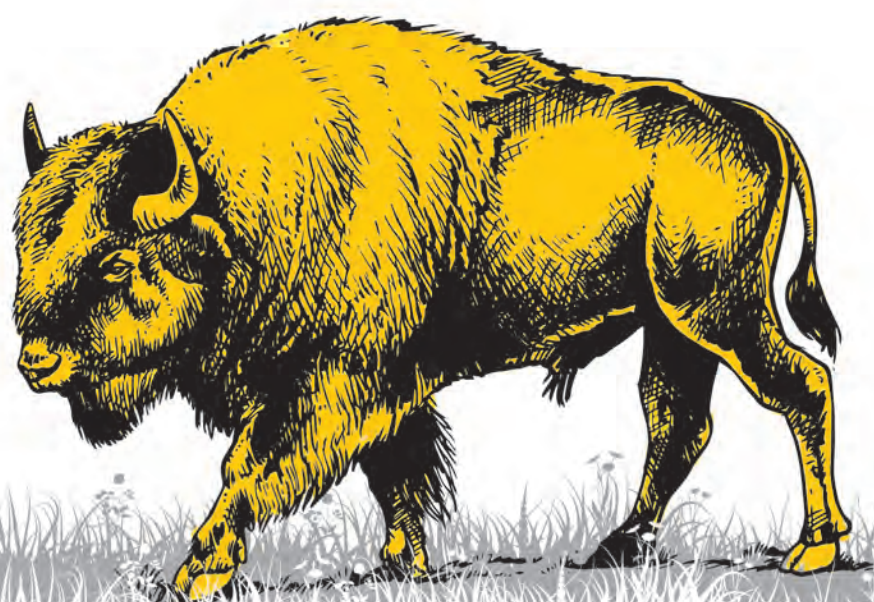
We thank our 505 Club members who faithfully contribute monthly to create a fund for items not covered by grants or restricted funding sources.

Often these funds cover emergency situations such as travel funds to reunite a runaway youth with a safe family member, travel to a treatment facility, dental treatment, or medical treatment among other smaller personal needs.

The 505 Club is a great example for how the combined donations can bridge the needs of our Tumbleweed youth when they encounter a critical episode in their lives.



Contact Mary at (406) 259-2558 if you'd like to join our 505 Club today!



FOLLOW US!

...and get into a raffle for a
\$200 gift card to Buffalo Block

***Deadline: by midnight
May 31st, 2022***



idge donors mentioned in our publications. We apologize for any mistakes and ask that you contact Mary with corrections or comments.

First Interstate BancSystem

YOUR DONATIONS ALLOWS US TO EXCEL
THANK YOU *for helping to be our driving force.*

Dress for Success

Your donation goes above and beyond, thank you!

.....

Joel T. Long

It's because of the generosity of people like you that we can do anything at all. For this, we thank you and greatly appreciate your support.

.....

Harvest Church

Your donation allows us to excel, thank you!

Dan and Jeanne Scott Family Foundation

THANK YOU!

505 Club Members

Thank you for your great generosity!

CLADIS INVESTMENT ADVISORY

Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Fortin Foundation OF FLORIDA

Your support helped us to get all that much closer to achieving that which we've set out to do. We thank you and wholeheartedly appreciate your involvement.

Tom & Kathy Butler

Your support is invaluable to us, thank you!

WENTANA, LLC

Your donation is greatly appreciated.

WALMART

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Thank you for all of your help!

RDO Equipment Co.

Greatly appreciate your donation!

Montana Community Foundation

Paul M. & Cynthia L. Foster Foundation

Thank you for your great generosity!

Lynette Scott

Steve & Missy Langlas

We would humbly like to extend our thanks to you for your willingness to provide us with financial support. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Grace United Methodist Church

MESSIAH LUTHERAN

Your donation goes above and beyond what I could have ever hoped to imagine. Sincerely, thank you for all of your help.

Mattick Family Foundation

Your donation is greatly appreciated!

Midland Implement

Al Rapacz

— DOUGLAS J KIRBY —

Thank you. We appreciate your support.

Homer & Mildred Scott Foundation

We would humbly like to extend our thanks to you for your willingness to provide us with financial support. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Offutt Family Foundation

It's because of the generosity of people like you that we can do anything at all. Thank you!

Anonymous

Your donation goes above and beyond!

AJAX FOUNDATION

Your support helps to further our mission.

TOWN PUMP

Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Evidence Church

Your support is invaluable to us, THANK YOU!

Pacific Source

• SYSCO •

Your donation allows us to excel, thank you!

Scheels

Your support helped us to get all that much closer to achieving that which we've set out to do. We thank you and wholeheartedly appreciate your contributions.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative

Anonymous

Thank you!

Nicki Larson

Actions speak louder than words, and today you have shown this to be the absolute truth. The action of your donation evokes the utmost gratitude.

Andrew Gott

SUSAN SCOTT HEYNEMAN

Thank you for all of your help!

Edward & Marcy Mutch

• JIM & CHRIS SCOTT •

We thank you and appreciate your support.

Robert & Pamela Sanderson

Your donation is greatly appreciated.

BEQUEST OF JOHN L SHERMAN

We thank you!

John H Hanson & Deborah A Anspach

Thank you for all of your help!

Western Security Bank

Hands of Hope Grant

We would humbly like to extend our thanks to you for your willingness to provide us with financial support. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Greatly appreciate your donation!

ROBERT & BONNIE PETER, JR.

Appreciate your support, thank you!

Engel & Volkers Western Frontier

Thank you for your great generosity!

Deborah Reger

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

THANK YOU!

Bobby & Ellen Taylor

.....

Thank you for your great generosity!

David & Elizabeth Nedrow

Anonymous

Your donation goes above and beyond, thank you!

First Interstate Foundation


We want to thank you for the financial support as we blaze ahead to fulfill our common goal.

Cynthia Foster


Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Anonymous

DONATE TODAY!



Scan this code - or use this donation form to give by mail.



You can make a difference in a youth's life. Ways to give:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25

☐ Other amount, please specify \$ _____

☐ My check is enclosed ☐ Credit Card Donation

Please make check to: Tumbleweed

Thanks for your support!

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TUMBLEWEED



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Tumbleweed

Lasting Change for Vulnerable Youth

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Spring and the Promise of Tomorrow