

# 30 YEARS



ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019

# For you, in gratitude, from Carol and Sara,

THIRTY YEARS OF DOING GOOD – AND 2019 WAS OUR BEST YEAR! HERE’S A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED JUST THIS PAST YEAR – TOGETHER, FOR MONTROSE FOREVER.

## RECORD BREAKING GRANTS

Thanks to your support, we’ve given our local organizations and community projects over \$430,000!! We are overwhelmingly proud to report this number, not only because it is almost double from previous years, but also because it represents the power of connecting charitable donors to important community needs in Montrose.

## INCREASING COMMUNITY ASSETS

This past FY 2018–2019 we’ve continued our upward trend in assets. As your community foundation, we are almost to \$5M in assets, standing as of this writing at \$4.6M (would you help us hit \$5M?). Thank you, our generous friends and donors, for this tremendous growth.

## ENGAGING AND MOBILIZING COMMUNITY MINDED FOLKS

About 100 of our closest donors and friends agreed to be surprised at the first ever MCF Diner en Blanc. This unique fundraiser had attendees guessing until an hour before the event as to its secret location. In the evening everyone gathered at the Ute Indian Museum and enjoyed fellowship, delicious food, live bluegrass music and most importantly, philanthropy. A \$10,000 matching grant challenge was issued that night and the challenge was met.

## PROMOTING ARTS

So much wonderful progress was made in the Arts for Montrose this year and two of our fiscal funds helped make an impact. The Save the

Sculptures committee finished their fundraising and gave The City of Montrose \$131,157 to purchase our beloved western sculptures. Additionally, the Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA), opened their downtown art center where arts groups meet, art classes and programming is held, and rotating exhibits grace the walls each quarter.

We thank you for your continued support of MCF, as we could not do it without you. Here’s to another 30 years of improving the quality of life for all in Montrose, together, for Montrose Forever!

Sincerely,

*Carol Friedrich*

**Carol Friedrich**  
Board President

*Sara Plumhoff*

**Sara Plumhoff**  
Executive Director



# GENEROUS & COMMUNITY MINDED

## DR. MIKE AND PHOEBE BENZIGER MATCH FUNDS FOR NEW FOREVER MONTROSE FUND

Spanning almost 30 years, Mike and Phoebe Benziger have seen the Foundation through many stages including our formative years, adolescent years and years of remarkable growth. Mike served on the board in the mid-90s and remembers when many of the original, founding members of the Montrose Rotary Club Youth Foundation ran the board meetings. At that time, the board raised money for the organization, and reviewed and supported grant requests for youth programming.

Phoebe began her board duty with MCF in 2006. In total she spent 12 years serving as a board director, on committees and was even President. During her tenure on the board, she saw the organization through many administrative changes - hiring two Executive Directors and the first paid staff. But the tremendous increase in assets - from under \$1M to more than \$4 Million - is what sticks out in her mind as an important accomplishment because with more assets, the Foundation is able to give more grants and support more projects in the community.

Though both are from New Mexico, they've



spent more of their lives in Montrose - and remember when the outskirts of the city began at the Walgreens on South Townsend. Mike and Phoebe also share a love for service through medicine. Mike is the Medical Director of the Forensic Laboratories for Delta, Montrose and

Gunnison Hospitals as well as a Board-Certified Forensic Pathologist. He earned his medical degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and has been practicing medicine for more than 40 years. Phoebe's medical career included time spent as a lab and x-ray technician, some time with medical coding and she was ultimately hired by Dr. Bob VanGemert to be his nurse office manager. After 27 years in that role, she retired.

The Benzigers feel that opportunity for education is the keystone to a healthy community and this is one way in which MCF has had a large impact on the community. In 2019, MCF gave out more than \$80,000 in scholarships to traditional and non-traditional students. It has been rewarding to see

their friend's children move back to Montrose and put their skills and professional knowledge to work here-in the community they grew up in. Many of these "kids" received scholarships to help them pursue their education.

When asked what advice they would give to others about how to live a philanthropic life, they replied, "Don't underestimate how much you can impact a community by being involved. Every little bit counts towards making your community a better place." Mike and Phoebe have spent their lives in Montrose working towards making the community a better place for all. Through generously giving their time, energy, skills and financial support...they have.

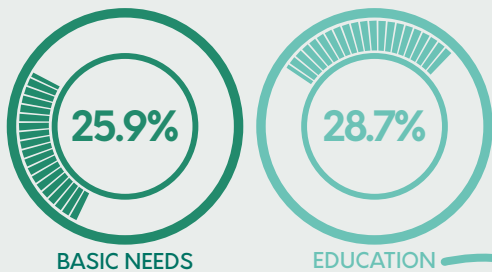
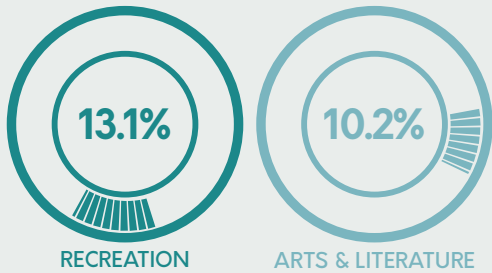
**With Mike and Phoebe's history and support of MCF over the past 30 years, it was a natural next step for us to ask them to help us secure a permanent fund for the next 30 years. The Benzigers offered to match up to \$15,000 for the Forever Montrose Fund. This fund will help the Foundation continue to offer services to donors and local nonprofits and coordinate community projects.**

**We hope you will consider contributing to the Forever Montrose Fund, no matter if your donation is big or small - it matters. Please consider giving today.**



"Don't underestimate how much you can impact a community by being involved" - Mike and Phoebe Benziger

## FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 GRANT BY CATEGORY (%)



## IN 2018-19 MCF GAVE \$430K+ TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

- |                                     |                                       |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 4H Stall Stompers                   | Giving Club                           | MHS Senior Safe Party                    | Olathe High School Boys Basketball        | Save the Sculptures                       |
| All Points Transit                  | Golden Willow Retreat                 | MHS Yearbook                             | Olathe High School Cross Country          | Senior Community Care                     |
| Altrusa Club of Montrose Foundation | GSCO Troop No. 54                     | Montrose Area Woodturners                | Olathe High School FBLA                   | Sharing Ministries                        |
| Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club    | Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans | Montrose Botanical Society               | Olathe High School FFA                    | Silverton Farmers Market                  |
| Bosom Buddies                       | Haven House                           | Montrose Center for the Arts             | Olathe High School Girls Basketball       | Squint & Juanita Moore Scholarship        |
| Bright Futures                      | Helping Hand Fund                     | Montrose Christmas Dinners               | Olathe High School Girls Volleyball       | Top of the Pines                          |
| CASA of the 7th Judicial District   | Hilltop - Montrose Regional Office    | Montrose County School RE-1J             | Olathe High School Girls Volleyball       | Town of Naturita                          |
| Centennial Middle School            | Hispanic Affairs Project              | Montrose County Sheriff's Posse          | Olathe Youth Football League              | Town of Silverton                         |
| Center for Mental Health            | HopeWest                              | Montrose High School                     | Operation Snow Storm                      | Town of Telluride                         |
| Christ's Kitchen                    | Kit Faragher Foundation               | Montrose Marlins                         | Partners of Delta, Montrose and Ouray     | Tri-County Health Network                 |
| Church of Jesus Christ of LDS       | Life Choices Family Resource Center   | Montrose Recreation District (MRD)       | Permanent Book Fund                       | Tunnel of Lights                          |
| City of Montrose                    | Magic Circle Players                  | Montrose Recreation Foundation           | Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains | Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid           |
| Colorado Public Radio               | MHS Boys Basketball Boosters          | Montrose Recreation Foundation Triathlon | Population Connection                     | United Methodist Church                   |
| Common Ground                       | MHS Boys Soccer                       | Montrose Regional Library District       | Ridgway Athletic Booster Club             | Valley Symphony Association               |
| COPMOBA, Inc                        | MHS Cheerleaders                      | Montrose United Methodist Church         | River Valley Family Health Center         | Valley Youth Orchestra                    |
| Colorado West Christian School      | MHS Choir                             | MRD Luis Estrada Fund                    | Rotary Amphitheater Fund                  | Voyager Youth Program                     |
| Delta Montrose Youth Services       | MHS Indians Baseball                  | Museum of The Mountain West              | San Juan Healthcare Foundation            | Weehawken Creative Arts                   |
| Dolphin House                       | MHS Ladies Soccer                     | Northside Elementary                     | San Juan LEADS                            | West End Economic Development Corporation |
| Dream Catcher Therapy Center        | MHS Mountain Bike Team                | Oak Grove Elementary                     |   | Wright Stuff Community Foundation         |
| Envision Concentration              |                                       |  |   |   |

Grants from Montrose Community Foundation, July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019



Magic Circle Players test out their new sound system on the stage and behind the scenes.



CASA's Youth Access Center (YAC) opened in September 2018. MCF helped raise and granted over \$50,000 for this project.



The Montrose Area Woodturners use their new lathe to spin these decorative wig stands for cancer patients.



Kids, mentors and staff brave the rapids during Partners' annual river raft trip.

# STORIES FROM OUR GRANTEES

Improving Quality of Life through Impact Grants

## TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK

When you take a cooking class, you don't really expect to spend two hours a week for six weeks with complete strangers and leave the class with their phone numbers. During our Spanish language Cooking Matters class in Montrose in early 2019, this is exactly what happened. Cooking Matters instructors educate participants on basic nutrition, teach participants how to purchase healthy food on a budget, and instruct participants on classic cooking skills. After cooking a meal in class, participants and instructors all sit down to enjoy the meal they just prepared. It is during this time that instructors make a true effort to get every participant engaged and sharing their 'food story.' Cooking Matters not only breaks down barriers to healthy eating and cooking, but it also reduces social isolation—another less tangible social determinant of health that can be a barrier to taking care of oneself.



## VOYAGER YOUTH PROGRAM

Pictures speak a thousand words. Voyager's Summer Enrichment program provides experiential and engaging activities for school aged children. MCF's grant helped pay for transportation for children living in or near the City of Ouray to attend our exciting and fun program.

Kids from Ouray, Ridgway and Montrose enjoyed outings and activities like panning for gold during Voyager's summer youth program.



## RIVER VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH CLINIC

It is well recognized that external social and economic conditions significantly affect morbidity, mortality and quality of life outcomes. Lack of access to basic resources such as safe housing, healthy foods or transportation increases the risk of a range of health problems. To reduce health disparities in our community, River Valley Family Health Centers initiated a Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Program. Through an Impact Grant from Montrose Community Foundation, River Valley provides qualified low-income patients with financial support to meet pressing unmet social needs such as: healthy groceries, utility bills, a refrigerator to store insulin, or co-pays for high cost prescription medications


Patient Health Navigator at River Valley helps patients pinpoint needs.





# NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORING MAXINE KELLER

Maxine (Micki) Keller, a dedicated teacher for 30 years and an educator for life, was taken from the Olathe community in a tragic accident on November 26, 2018. Missed by her family, her colleagues, her friends, her students, and her community, Micki's family acknowledged that she lived a wonderful and happy life. **She was an inspiration to many and a believer in humanity's goodness which she lived through doing small acts of kindness.**



Micki was born in Galveston, Texas and graduated from high school in Thornton, Colorado. She earned a bachelor's of science degree from Western State College (WSC) and later returned to WSC to earn a master's degree in education in 1972.

With her husband, Alfred Keller, they made their home in Olathe, Colorado in 1966 and three years

later she began her 30-year teaching career. She taught at Morgan Elementary School and finished her career at Olathe Elementary School where she taught kindergarten and special education until she retired in 1999.

She was an advocate for special education and encouraged many of her students to pursue higher education whether it was college, vocational training, or an associate degree. Micki wanted students enrolled in the Olathe school system, where 85% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch programs due to low income, to change their circumstances through education.

To help achieve this goal, **Micki started a scholarship for Olathe High School seniors after she retired in 1999.** The scholarship funds came from proceeds generated from the Olathe Elementary School Store, which sold crafts and other objects made by students. Micki started The Store and worked there faithfully every Friday.

**Today, Micki's legacy continues through the MCF Fund, the Maxine Keller Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship that will be awarded each year in Micki's name to a deserving Olathe High School senior.** The original funds were raised from the Olathe School Store, then through a Go Fund Me account after the accident, and then by her four children. In many ways, the funding for her legacy represents the founder – support and love through school, community and family.

The first scholarship will be awarded by September of 2020. The main criterium for the scholarship is that the applicant must have been enrolled in the Olathe School System for at least eight years.

For more details and the online application, visit: [montrosecf.org/apply-for-a-scholarship](http://montrosecf.org/apply-for-a-scholarship)

**“In my thirty years of teaching, I have met and become friends with many fine teachers and employees. I dedicated my life to helping children and found that I could not have chosen a better career.” – Micki Keller**

## MCF BALANCE SHEET

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

### ASSETS

Cash Equivalents	\$804,942
Investments	\$3,875,998
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$4,680,940</b>

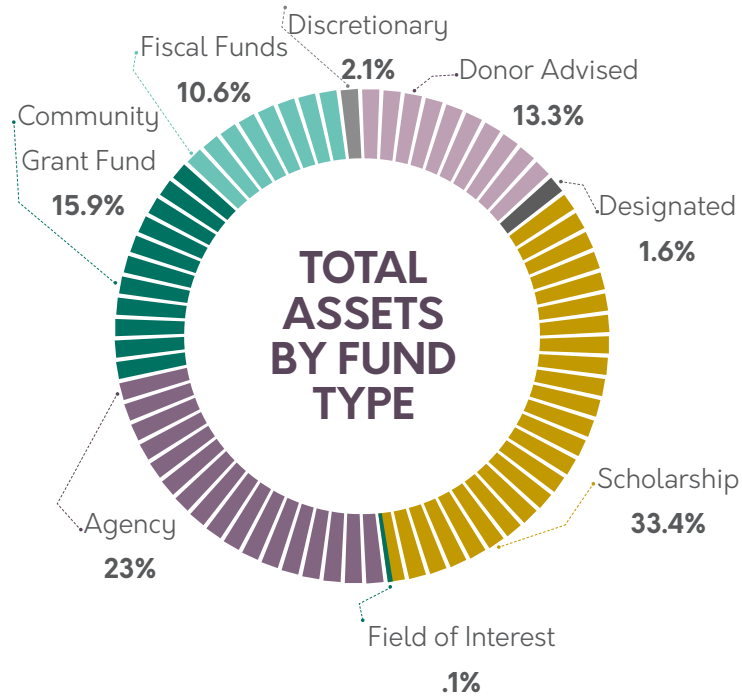
### LIABILITIES

Agency Funds	\$1,074,614
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**NET ASSETS** ————— **\$3,606,326**

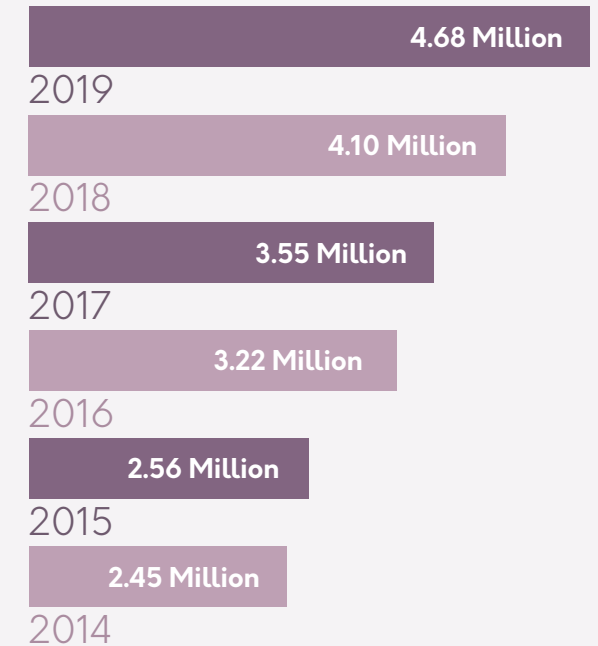
**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** ————— **\$4,680,940**

\*This Financial Statement has not been officially reviewed by an outside CPA. If you would like to receive a copy of the most recently reviewed financial statements for MCF, please contact our office.



## ASSET GROWTH

Assets increased by 14% over the prior fiscal year ending in June 2018.



# SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE

You might be surprised by how many ways you can give to MCF. We strive to make it easy for you to be generous to your community.

### CASH

The simplest way to give and also provides immediate tax benefits.

### STOCK & SECURITIES

If it's easier to donate appreciated stock, then we can accept your stock transfer directly into our investment account. You receive a charitable tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax.

### RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

If you are 70 ½ you can take advantage of the IRA Charitable rollover, or designate MCF as the beneficiary for your retirement account at end of life.

### VEHICLES

Donate your car, boat, RV, trailer, snowmobile or other piece of equipment and proceeds will go to MCF or an MCF fund of your choice. We work with a third party nonprofit who handles the process from pick up to title transfer to proceeds.

### REAL ESTATE

The Foundation's Board will consider gifts of property and real estate on a case-by-case basis.

### LIFE INSURANCE

Consider naming MCF as a beneficiary of your existing policy if it's no longer needed.

# THE POWER OF YOUR REFUND

Beginning next year, a new state program, called ReFUND CO, will give you an opportunity to directly support a local nonprofit that is doing important work in our community.

In 2019, Colorado returned more than \$1 billion in refunds to 1.9 million state taxpayers. In 2020, Coloradans who receive a state tax refund will have a chance to donate all or some of it to a local nonprofit they know and trust.

If you get a refund, the new program puts you in control of deciding if you want to donate some or all of it and you can choose exactly which Colorado-registered charity will directly benefit.

Colorado ReFUND came about due to cooperation between the Colorado Legislature and the Colorado Nonprofit Association. In 1977, Colorado became the first state to allow taxpayers to donate to nonprofits and charitable causes via the state tax return. In May 2018, Governor Hickenlooper signed SB 18-141 proposing that Colorado be the first state to allow taxpayers to write-in the nonprofit of their choice when they donate their tax refunds via the state tax return.

Not every nonprofit will be eligible to participate – in fact, there are only about 7,200 eligible nonprofits in Colorado.

**In order to be eligible, a nonprofit must:**

- Be a 501(c)(3) with the IRS,
- Have been registered under the Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act for at least five years,
- Be in good standing as of September 1, 2019 with the Colorado Secretary of State.

**How will it work?** On the Voluntary Contributions Schedule on the Colorado Tax Return, taxpayers will see a line starting in 2020 for the Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund. For individuals who are filing for themselves, there will be a new Tax Nonprofit Directory created that will list the specific ID number for eligible organizations. If you use a tax preparer for your taxes, you will have to provide that ID number to them. Eligible nonprofits will be

responsible for sharing their specific ID number with their donors and the public.

**MCF is taking the lead in coordinating and organizing this ReFUND Campaign locally.**

Eligible non-profits and MCF will be working together to get details about this program out through advertising in various media outlets so taxpayers have the information they need as they file tax forms in early 2020.

**Whatever cause is important to you, you will be able to directly support your favorite local nonprofit through this new tax refund donation program.**





*Life isn't about getting & having,  
it's about giving & being.*

Pledged giving is a critical piece in the development of a strong, healthy community foundation. Founder Cliff Baldrige, knew the value of committed, forward-thinking individuals who believe in the future of the community. MCF proudly recognizes philanthropists who pledge to make annual donations for five years as Baldrige Society Members.

*Patron*  
\$750 PER YEAR  
\$63 PER MONTH

*Fellow*  
\$500 PER YEAR  
\$42 PER MONTH

*Friend*  
\$250 PER YEAR  
\$21 PER MONTH

**Benefits include:**  
Ticket(s) the first year to the MCF Gala or MCF Event, w/permission recognition in materials, event and news updates.

# MCF BUSINESS GIVING PROGRAM

The MCF Business Giving Program is a tiered giving program for businesses who pledge to give to the Foundation for three years. The generosity of these businesses help MCF achieve our mission.

These businesses receive benefits like:

- Logo with link on [montrosecf.com](http://montrosecf.com)
- Promotions in Annual Report and MCF printed materials
- Tickets to MCF events their first year and more.

The MCF can be a valuable philanthropic partner to businesses by administering business Donor Advised Funds. This service allows businesses and their employees to actively participate in charitable giving.

If you would like to learn more about the Business Giving Program or how a Donor Advised Fund might help your business, please contact the MCF office at 970.249.3900.

## We would like to thank the MCF Business Partners:



Brent Martin PC



# INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Investment management expertise helps nonprofits plan for tomorrow.

## AGENCY FUNDS ARE IDEAL FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Why is an Agency Fund ideal for a nonprofit organization interested in a simple and effective way to build a fund for their future? Because choosing MCF to manage their fund allows the nonprofit to concentrate on running their programs to achieve their mission. MCF provides investment expertise, accounting support, promotes the fund and can accept cash or noncash gifts on behalf of the nonprofit.

Funds are managed internally by an MCF Investment Policy Committee that adheres to a conservative 60/40 balance between stocks and bonds. By using low-cost index funds and exchange-traded funds (ETF)s, the Foundation does not incur high investment fees or pass along those fees to our fund holders.

**The foundation manages fund for following nine, local organizations:**



## ACADEMIC BOOSTER CLUB (A+BC) AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Boosting school spirit and academic excellence: that's what the Academic Booster Club is about. Since the club founding in 1982, more than 3,000 students have been recognized for their achievements in the classroom with certificates and pins. A+BC has also awarded more than \$30,000 in grants to outstanding teachers in the past five years. A+BC has been invested with MCF since 2005, earning interest to annually help fund its mission of recognizing, promoting and publicizing academic achievement in the Montrose RE-1J School District. For more information about the Academic Booster Club, visit their Facebook page, Facebook/MontroseABC.

**If you'd like to support the A+BC or any of the MCF Funds, click on the Donate button on [montrosecf.com](http://montrosecf.com), follow the prompts and choose the fund(s).**



In 2016, A+BC gave a grant to Centennial Middle School teacher, Meghan Wasbusch who teaches STEM at Centennial Middle School.

## BRIDGES HELPS RAISE FUNDS FOR MCF & DOLPHIN HOUSE

We are thrilled to announce that the Seventh Annual Summer Concert on the Lawn at The Bridges was a success! The concert was held the last weekend in June and was hosted by The Bridges Golf Course. This year's concert featured The Little River Band. The view and the weather were as incredible as the music. Between MCF & the Dolphin House we were able to raise more than \$35,500!



Award-winning Little River Band, performed in front of a crowd of 1,100 at The Bridges. Photos by Paul Hurschmann.



# MCF FAMILY OF FUNDS

We strive to grow a stronger community by enhancing the quality of life in the place we all call “home” and offer our donors many ways to meet their charitable goals.

## AGENCY FUNDS

A long-term fund held and managed by MCF on behalf of a nonprofit.

- A+BC Academic Booster Club
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Dolphin House Operating & Capital Funds
- Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans
- HopeWest
- MCF Community Fund
- Magic Circle Players
- Montrose Botanical Society
- Permanent Book Fund
- United Methodist Church

## DESIGNATED FUNDS

Donors establish a fund to support specific charitable organizations.

- Richard & Julie Duncan Fund
- The Crosby Endowment-Children’s & Music Ministries

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAF)

Donors establish a fund and receive tax benefits then recommend grants to charitable organizations at their convenience.

- Burgwyn Shaver Family Fund
- Bynum Family Fund
- Elizabeth Elicker-Mize Fund
- San Miguel Power Association DAF
- Tom Wiard & Emily Schneider Fund
- Western Slope Orthopaedics DAF

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

- Ada White Memorial
- Auto Enthusiasts
- Cobble Creek Men’s & Women’s Golf Association
- DMEA
- Gilbert Family
- Ken & Marlene Townsend
- Literature for Life
- Maxine Keller Memorial Fund
- Montrose Chamber Ken Gale Memorial
- Montrose County Merit
- Montrose Rotary Club
- Phil Trumbo Memorial
- Squint & Juanita Moore
- Tom Gilmore Memorial Law Enforcement

## FISCAL SPONSORSHIP FUNDS

- Alpine Photography Club
- Angel Tree (at Cobble Creek)
- Common Ground
- Helping Hand Fund
- Luis Estrada Swimming Scholarship
- MHS Stadium Project
- MRF Capital Projects
- MRF Youth Recreation Projects
- Montrose Center for the Arts
- Montrose Christmas Meals
- Montrose Jr Golf Alliance
- Montrose Lacrosse Foundation
- Montrose Recreation Foundation (MRF) Black Canyon Triathlon
- Montrose Rotary Amphitheater
- Montrose Save the Sculptures
- Montrose Tennis Association
- Montrose Youth Football League
- Olathe Sweet Corn Festival
- PAX (Montrose Public Art Experience)
- Red & Blue Games
- San Juan LEADS
- Shoes for Kids (Montrose Rotary)
- Substance Abuse Fund
- Transition Labs
- U Valley Vixens/Roller Derby



For more than 10 years Timberline Bank has supported the MCF by providing valuable office and conference room space. Thank you - Scott, Randy, Kevin, Tessa, Shelly, Lindy, Lynne, Robyn, Ashley and Ana for all you do to help MCF including early mornings, unlimited coffee, break room treats, secret Santas and banking services!

**The MCF Board of Directors and Staff thank you for being such a strong community partner.**



## 2018-2019 MCF Board of Directors

**Carol Friedrich**  
President

**Chris Reichmann**  
Secretary

**J. David Reed**  
Vice President

**Leslie German**  
Treasurer

**Sarah Abbott**

**Scott Wittman**

**Dave Frank**

**Rob Omer**

**Kaye Hotsenpiller**

**Vin Singh**

**Laird Landon**

**Mark Smith**

**Tonya Maddox**

## MCF STAFF

**Sara Plumhoff, Executive Director**  
sarap.montrosecf@gmail.com

**Sandy Peters, Accounting**  
acctg.montrosecf@gmail.com