

Benefis Healthcare Foundation Establishes Named Scholarships to Honor Fallen Mercy Flight Crew

The Mercy Flight tragedy greatly impacted the Benefis Healthcare Family and the entire community. The outpouring of support has been truly amazing—from the direct financial assistance for the families to fundraising activities created out of respect and appreciation for the crew members lost on February 6, 2007. The generous support is still going strong.



Benefis Healthcare Foundation has established named scholarships in memory of the fallen Mercy Flight crew. The Foundation is providing \$25,000 to create three permanent scholarship funds in honor of Vince Kirol, Darcy Dengel and Paul Erickson. These will be healthcare related scholarships and a committee will be formed to discuss the details of the scholarships. The committee will consist of Benefis Healthcare employees, Mercy Flight crew and the families of those lost in the tragedy.

Anyone who would like to honor the crew members so their legacies may live on forever, can direct gifts to the individual scholarship or to the overall scholarship fund. Memorial gifts can also be made according to the individual family's wishes. For additional questions or information on how you can help, please contact the Foundation at 455-5840.



2007

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Sletten Cancer Institute Benefits from CM Russell High School Fundraiser

Due to the generosity and organization of several CMR High School student groups, two representatives from the student government presented a check in the amount of \$3,212.30 to support cancer research at Sletten Cancer Institute. Alexa Fromm and Conrad Addison were on hand to present the check to Betsy Smith, Genetic Counselor at Sletten Cancer Institute.

Alexa, a senior at CMR and the student body president, is very involved in government and student activities and is the captain of the Wrangler Dance Team. She was happy to share the reason for giving to Sletten Cancer Institute. "We know a few people that have had cancer and how hard it has been for them. We also know there are a lot of other people affected by cancer and how difficult it is to recover from it. We felt it was important to help the program," says Alexa, referring to why they decided to help Sletten Cancer Institute. Alexa is not only civic-minded, she is also a great student. She is ranked number one academically at CMR. She is the daughter of Dee Dee and Ryan Burke and Steve and Therenia Fromm. Alexa adds, "we hope before the end of the school year to do another fundraiser to help the cancer center."

Conrad Addison was also instrumental in this fundraising effort. Conrad is captain of the CMR football team, vice president of National Honor Society, and was selected as the outstanding junior English student. "I think it is really important to give back to the community and being part of the student

government is a great way for me to do that. In student government we tend to extract resources to accomplish our goals, so this is a nice way to give back instead. It was also a nice way to involve the whole school. I was happy to help." Conrad is the son of Dr. Brice Addison and Shelley Likness.

The dollars raised were comprised of several activities. The CM Russell student government and the varsity boys and girls basketball clubs teamed together by raffling a basket of items donated by local businesses during the boys and girls games held December 21st and 22nd. In addition, season tickets to Great Falls Explorers games were raffled. Also from these two games, the CMR Key Club and the Orchestra department donated a portion of their concessions revenue. Chad Olson, the varsity girls' basketball coach, assisted in organizing these efforts. In addition, the student government organized a fundraiser called "Hats On" where students could pay \$2 for the privilege to wear a hat to school.

A huge thank you to all of those involved in making this such a great success.



Conrad Addison, Alexa Fromm and Betsy Smith

Welcome New Board Members

Kathy is certainly not new to the Foundation Board of Directors and recently was welcomed back on the board. She has been involved with Benefis Healthcare Foundation and Benefis Healthcare for many years and also served on the Montana Deaconess Foundation Board. Kathy co-chaired and chaired the first Benefis Healthcare Board for two years. She continued on the Benefis Healthcare Foundation board after the merger and was also the chair of the capital campaign for Sletten Cancer Institute. Kathy is very active in Camp Francis, a bereavement camp for children ages 6 –12 that focuses on healing and understanding for children who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Kathy is a Great Falls native who owns and operates Great Escape Travel. She taught at CMR High School and the College of Great Falls for many years. Kathy has served on many boards and continues to serve the community in many ways. She loves travel, photography and people. In her leisure time she enjoys spending time at Lake McDonald. "The Foundation has so many excellent projects and programs that it is a real pleasure be able to be a part of a program that does so much for our community."



M. Kathy Rice
Board Member

John is a native of Great Falls, Montana. He graduated from Great Falls High School and continued his education at Montana State University, Bozeman, after a short stint in the U.S. Army Reserve. He graduated with a B.S. in business with an accounting emphasis. John began his public accounting career with his father's accounting firm, Jack G. Stevens and Associates in 1996.

John currently manages the Great Falls Branch of Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens P.C. and in October 2006 became a shareholder. JCCS purchased his father's firm in 1999. His accounting experience consists of audits of both For-profit and Non-profit companies, tax planning and preparation, and business consulting. He is currently a member of the University of Great Falls Finance Committee and the outgoing Treasurer of the United Way of Cascade County. "Benefis Foundation is doing great things for our community and being a member of this board allows me an opportunity to give something back to the community where I live and work."



John E. Stevens
Board Member

New Planning Opportunity for those with IRAs

If you are age 70^{1/2} or older, new legislation now allows you to make charitable gifts directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). A special IRA charitable rollover permits individuals age 70^{1/2} and older to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year to public charities.

Example: Mary has \$500,000 in an IRA and will be required to withdraw approximately \$25,000 this year, and she also wants to contribute \$20,000 to Benefis Healthcare Foundation. She

- You are subject to the 2% rule that reduces your itemized deductions, OR
- You do not itemize deductions

How do I initiate an IRA charitable rollover?

Contact your IRA administrator. We can provide a sample letter of direction for you to use to ask your IRA administrator to transfer your gift.

If you are age 70^{1/2} or older, new legislation now allows you to make charitable gifts directly from an Individual Retirement Account.

can authorize the administrator of the IRA to transfer \$20,000 to the Foundation and \$5,000 to herself. The \$20,000 distributed directly from her IRA to charity will not be subject to tax and will be counted toward her annual minimum distribution.

How do I know if an IRA charitable rollover is right for me?

- You are at least age 70^{1/2}, AND
- You do not need the additional income generated by the minimum required distribution and wish to make a charitable gift, OR
- Your charitable gifts already equal 50% of your adjusted gross income, so you do not benefit from an income tax charitable deduction for additional gifts, OR

For more information, contact us at 406-455-5840.

As with any decision involving your financial or estate plans, we urge you to seek the advice of professional counsel when considering a gift.





MayFaire 2007

A Time to Nurture

MayFaire is the major special event organized by Benefis Healthcare Foundation each year. MayFaire is an elegant evening of entertainment where friends and neighbors throughout Northcentral Montana can come together to enjoy a night out while raising money for valuable healthcare services.

Each year, Benefis Healthcare Foundation selects a project or service to benefit from the proceeds of MayFaire. This year's

beneficiary is Benefis Healthcare Women's and Children's Services. This program specializes in promoting wellness and strengthening the family unit by facilitating a family's health adaptation—physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. We are proud to be a part of the increased emphasis on family-centered care and facility improvements for our community and the surrounding region.



Phil Vassar Headlines MayFaire



We are proud to announce that award-winning country music singer and songwriter Phil Vassar will be the headliner for MayFaire on Saturday, May 5th. Phil has been named country songwriter of the year and also received the "Best New Vocalist" award from the Academy of Country Music. Phil Vassar also wrote the song "The Woman in My Life" which coordinates with our 2007 beneficiary perfectly—Women's and Children's Services in the new Patient Care Tower.

Tickets are on sale now at the Mansfield Box Office and are \$45 each. Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office, by calling 455-8514 or online at <http://ticketing.ci.great-falls.mt.us>. This year's concert tickets include the addition of a new post-party event. Everyone will have a chance to "party under the stars" in a large tent while dancing to the Bop-A-Dips band, or enjoy the 49th Street Blues Project inside the Convention Center.

Improving and Enhancing Healthcare Services for People Throughout Northcentral Montana

Check Out Our Website

If you are interested in learning more about Benefis Healthcare Foundation, please check out our website at www.benefisfoundation.org. Learn more about the programs and services the Foundation provides support to or giving opportunities such as Planned Giving options and on-line giving. Also, please feel free to give us feedback about our website. If you have any questions about Benefis Healthcare Foundation or our website, please email benefisfoundation.org or call 455-5840. We want to hear from you!

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