

**Changing Lives Forever** 

INSPIRATION

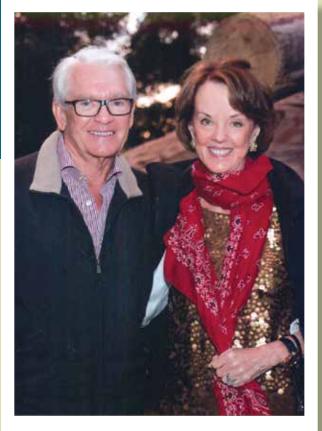
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Newsletter Summer 2023

## "WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PREPARE THE FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN, BUT WE CAN PREPARE OUR CHILDREN FOR THE FUTURE." Franklin Delano Roosevelt

A little background on the SFC and your involvement with the beginning of the Stock Farm Greater Ravalli Foundation. Do you have a personal connection?

"I was asked by a small group putting the foundation together to be part of it at its inception and I thought it was very important to put something together that would help the community and its other non-profit efforts – to help kids, families and others who may have needed a hand."



**Charles & Helen Schwab** 

### Why do you participate in the Stock Farm Greater Ravalli Foundation?

"I believed it was very important to have a relationship with the county, where at the time there had been some unfortunate economic forces like closed manufacturing and logging industries, that created an even more pressing need for help. As members of the community, it was essential that we help."

# What do you believe are the benefits to giving?

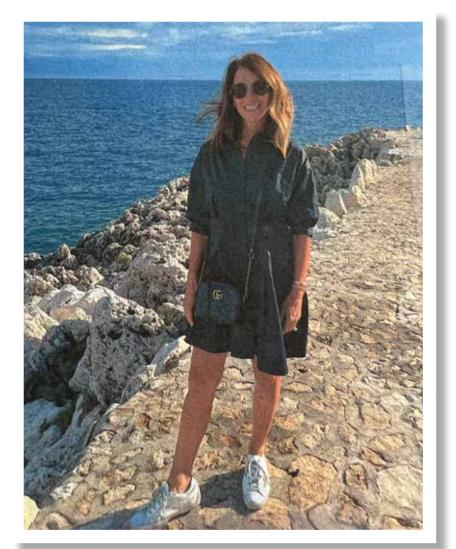
"I believe that giving and helping those who are less fortunate is a responsibility in our capitalist system and a responsibility of those who have benefited from it – if you are fortunate enough through your own success, you have an obligation to give back to society and your local community. It is that simple."

## Be bold for a brighter future...

# HELLO FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

eb Gabelhausen

If there has ever been a time to take decisive bold action regarding the educational and



sustenance needs of those who lack resources in our community, now is that time.

I am a fifth-generation Bitterroot Valley native and for eight years have been the Executive Director of the Stock Farm Greater Ravalli Foundation. During my tenure, I've seen students and families face challenging situations. Last year, we provided grocery cards to a family of four living in their car. The son, a senior in high school, was never late to school and didn't miss a day. He also helped his special needs, 14-year-old sister get to school. Eventually, the family found housing and we awarded this young man a college scholarship. Now, he's thriving at the University of Montana's Davidson Honor's College. All he needed was a chance and someone to believe in him. That's what the Stock Farm Greater Ravalli Foundation is about, giving people the chance to improve their lives. Over the past 20 years the Foundation has proudly benefitted thousands of people in Ravalli County.

The Foundation provides coats, snow pants, hats, and gloves to children in need. Beyond furnishing essentials, these donations influence a child's self-esteem. The lack of basic needs can impact the mental health of a child who may become withdrawn, miss school, and fail academically. Each year, the Foundation strives to increase funding for its sustenance program to meet these ever-increasing needs.

Join us in our mission to improve the quality of life for children and families in Ravalli County. Give boldly and make a difference in our beautiful community – to create a brighter future for all.



WE APPRECIATE YOUR INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY!

WITH GRATITUDE, HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM 2023

We appreciate the support!

TWONK you hann you! so muchi. we really appreciate Thank you for supporting usl. everyming! hore you Thank you for



Our Higher Purpose

It may surprise you to know that Montana's Ravalli County is one of the poorest counties not only in Montana, but in all the United States. The farther south on Highway 93 from Missoula, the more impoverished the county gets. That's why, in 2002, a collection of Stock Farm Club members got together to improve the lives of the children and families of Ravalli County and the Foundation was born. Generous giving to those in need has always been a high priority for the members and residents of the Stock Farm Club, and we thank you for your interest and past support. We would be a foundation in name only without your generous gifts.

Our Mission

The Stock Farm Greater Ravalli Foundation seeks to financially support the growth and development of Ravalli County's public education system by addressing three specific needs, which comprise the basis of daily life in Ravalli County.

#### **1. EDUCATION**

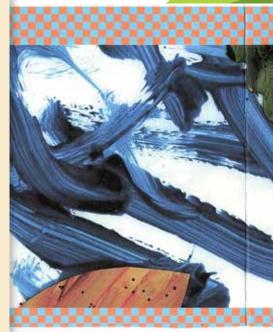
Provide technology, books, classroom supplies, and teacher support for Ravalli County public schools.

#### 2. SCHOLARSHIPS

Provide college scholarships to high school graduating seniors attending two-year and four-year colleges or technical schools. Also provide workforce certified students and grants for non-profits and projects in Ravalli County.

#### **3. SUSTENANCE**

Provide grocery cards, meals and warm winter clothing for students and families in Ravalli County.



Artwork by RHS Sunshine Class

Thank you for your Kindhearted donation to our families/

Your generosity makes an incredible impact and our jobs much easier.

Thank you again for thinking of our program -

> TeAta Headley Family ? Community Engagement Ravalli Head Start

### **2022 COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS**



580 **SNOW PANTS** 

605 WINTER COATS \$45,000

IN TEACHER SUPPLIES

\$35,000 **IN GROCERY CARDS** 

**\$50,000** IN GRANT FUNDING

We would like to These hopphopring needy convalles takes our Minds knowing we have a way oupprement what the hideras phidelings allow us extremely diff to deny a child a m doesn't happen in Convallis. Sorvice Shaffs Thanks to you this

Thank you for all your support for our school and students She Sweet 6th Science

Thank you so much for supporting our students throughout the years ! I have used there funds for journess in Outdoor Ed., engaging nesources, drama scripts, etc... the are so grateful! Kate haughter Kote haughter 6# grade ELA

450 HATS

50 **SCHOLARSHIPS** 

Convalles For

Greatfully;

S. would of threads

Dear Greater Ravalli Foundation, Thank you so much for your generous reimbursement program. With these funds we (teachers) are able to create classrooms that are welcoming, efficient and fun! I am so grateful for you and the wonderful programs you provide for our students. Thank you' Sincerely, Amanda Kirkbride Strogente

Thank you for your continued support over the years! your generous donations have helped provide materials & supplies that have be ne fitted the students. Dave Shebe 6th goads Social Studies

I have already used some of the funds for interactive games so my students can practice their math skills in a more engging fashion. Thank ym! Laura Bisil (math teacher)

Corvallis Middle School



Thank you for always supporting

our schools and our children Being

able to use extre money to buy

GSFGRF.

Stock Farm Greater Ravalli Foundation I wanted to take the time to Thank you for chassing me for this scholarship. Thanks to your generosity and belief in me I will be able to complete my good to go into the medical held and hopefully make a difference and help others. I am truly honored, Sincerelys Nicholas Riley

Dear Greater Ravalli Foundation,

Thank you so much for your extreme generosity that you sprend so well throughout our wonder Pul valley. I am beyond grate Pul to be able to receive the same scholarship that benefited my brother for three gears. I plan to attend MSU in the fall to become a child Life specialist and help children in the hospital. Thank you for investing in my Future.

Sincerely,

### **2023 CLASS OF** SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Debland the SFGRE) Thank you so much For your generosity. I don't know if you know this, but the Greater Ravelli Foundation also paid for my CNA class certification, which gave me the opportunity to experience and fall in love with the medical field. I might be in a very different place in life had I not been able to discover my passion in life is medicine. This scholarship has blessed me and my family in Ways you may never fully inderstand, so all I can say is thank you. Mariah Kinnunen



## WE ARE BEYOND APPRECIATIVE **BY DAN KIMZEY**

### I'm a parent of two of our scholarship recipients.

Recently, my wife and I had the honor of attending the SFGRF Scholarship awards dinner with our son, Cole, a graduating senior from Hamilton High School who received the SFGRF scholarship this year. As it was with our daughter, Lauren (HHS 2019), who received the scholarship four years ago, the event was fantastic in every way. A large group of highly encouraging, engaged, and knowledgeable SFGRF Board trustees and members of the scholarship selection committee, attentive Stock Farm staff, and a whole bunch of talented, hard-working students from around the valley in whose educations the SFGRF chose to support, and of course, one of the best meals we've had in a long time! The event, like the one in 2019, made me proud to be a member of the education community in the Bitterroot Valley and affirmed my belief in the Stock Farm as an immensely valuable partner in our schools, our valley's towns, and beyond.

The Stock Farm Club has been very important to our daughter, Lauren's development. Her first employment was with the Stock Farm while she was in high school – working at the kids' camps and later as a server/bartender. Lauren received the SFGRF scholarship in 2018 and attended Washington State University. While COVID-19 and the restrictions on education hit Washington especially hard, her freshman year which started so positively ended pretty miserably with the lockdowns and online format. Fortunately, that event motivated her to transfer back home, to the University of Montana, from which she will graduate in December with a history degree and a minor in women's studies. That the SFGRF developed relationships in which Montana institutions agreed to match the scholarship money is a stroke of genius and a huge benefit to Ravalli County students who earn the scholarship! Laruen has been able to (nearly) complete her degree with minimal student debt between her good work ethic and the SFGRF scholarship. She has been supported every step of the way.

My wife, Brooke, and I have been educators in the valley for many years (Brooke is a speech-language pathologist in Corvallis Primary School and I am a history teacher at Hamilton High School). As a former principal at HHS & HMS, I had the privilege to partner closely with Deb Gabelhausen on many projects and attribute her vision and talents as crucial to building a Culture of Excellence in Hamilton schools that we can all be proud of. She has been equally impactful in her role as Director of SFGRF. We have seen first-hand the value that the SFGRF brings to our students on a regular basis, from taking kids who suffered total losses from catastrophic home fires shopping for new clothes and supplies with the SFGRF Emergency Fund, to outfitting any student in need with high-quality winter coats and clothes, to supporting hundreds of students through college with scholarships, providing meaningful employment, and many other means of assisting us do the very best we can for our students. We are very fortunate to live in the Bitterroot Valley in many ways, but what the SFGRF and Deb Gabelhausen bring to the community ranks high among that list of reasons.

Cole will head to MSU in the fall to major in fisheries and wildlife management, a career field in which he's shown interest from the time he could read. As with Lauren, we will expect him to hold a part-time job during his university time, but it would really be difficult to imagine either of them individually, finding the extra income in our budget to fully support college expenses. These two scholarships mean the world to our kids, but they also mean the world to Brooke and me. As both educators and parents of students who have benefited from our schools' relationships with the Stock Farm and the Foundation, we are beyond appreciative! You have our sincerest gratitude.

Dan, Brooke, Lauren and Cole Kimzey Hamilton, Montana

Words of Thanks!



## MEET ROWEN TRACY

"My name is Rowen Tracy, a 2017 Greater Ravalli Foundation Scholarship Recipient. In May of 2021, my undergraduate college experience came to an end as I received my Bachelor of Sciences in Financial Engineering with a minor in Economics graduating Magna Cum Laude from MSU. After graduating, I took some time to reflect on getting to this point.

In the early planning stages of college, I had much excitement on attending MSU, however, it was hard to enjoy the process knowing the financial requirements college comes with. I can still remember the morning I was getting ready for school and my uncle, the Principal of Darby at the time, texted me congratulations for receiving this scholarship. At first, I had a hard time believing he was right, because I wanted to make sure I had the scholarship before I got excited. The moment it set in that I received the Greater Ravalli Foundation Scholarship, I felt this weight lift off the shoulders of my mother and myself.

The past four years have been a journey, one I am humbly honored to have. My sophomore year of college, I was able to focus on personal development including changing my eating habits, working out and losing ninety-five pounds, and traveling with a group of economic students to China for two weeks.

I graduated in May of 2021, and am now a Junior Consultant for the Data and Technology department working on SAP Finance Integrations in Atlanta, GA. In closing, I want to end this message one way, and that is to share my gratitude for the Stockfarm Greater Ravalli Foundation. I know the impact this Foundation has had on me, and the number of students you have helped is incredible."

# MEET KAYLEY CRABTREE

Stock Farm Club Employee and 2022 Scholarship Recipient

"My name is Kayley and I am currently a nursing student at Montana State University. I am excited to be on this educational journey and look forward to graduating with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in December 2024. After that, I am considering pursuing an advanced degree, as I believe it will help me to further my career and give me the opportunity to better serve our local community.

I have been working at the Stock Farm Club since September 2021, and it has been an amazing experience. I am very blessed to be part of such a kind, welcoming, and supportive team. The people at the Stock Farm Club have been a pleasure to work with, as they are always ready to provide help and guidance, and the generosity of the members has been inspirational.

I am also incredibly thankful to the Stock Farm Greater Ravalli Foundation; they have been instrumental in helping to provide me with the resources that I need to make the most of my education. Through their generous scholarships, they have given me the opportunity to pursue my dreams without worrying about financial constraints. The Foundation's commitment to helping students like me is truly remarkable and I am immensely grateful for their unwavering support. I am truly honored to be a part of the Stock Farm community."





# SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Joni Lodmell, Deb Prentice, Nancy Schueler, Becky Cote, Melinda Depp, Karen Talbot, Deb Gabelhausen, and Niki Shonkwiler

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

To help the children and families of Ravalli County by giving a generous donation of any amount, contact Deb Gabelhausen, your Executive Director, or visit our website sfgrf.org to learn more and give boldly today!



P.O. Box 1146 • Hamilton, MT 59840 debg@sfgrf.org • 406-381-3795