

## Memorial Community Center

### 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

As I end my second year of serving as the Memorial Community Center (MCC) Chairperson, I continue to be amazed at the kindness and generosity of our community and neighboring towns. The continued support from “Friends of the MCC”, and community members is greatly appreciated. It has been fantastic meeting new people at our MCC events, both enjoying and lending a hand.

This past year ended strongly with an increase in total fundraising and total revenue. We ended with an all-time high in our checking, savings, and CD accounts, however, grant monies were down from previous years.

MCC was a recipient of grant money for Art Enhancement, which allows the MCC to continue to host a variety of art classes ranging from acrylic, watercolor painting, origami, figure drawing, and more.

In June we learned we would not be a grant recipient from the Idaho Community Foundation, which supports the preschool. Once again, the community answered the call to action with an amazing response to our “Support a Child Campaign”, and a surprise match to monies raised at the initiation of the campaign. With the support of the community at large, fundraising surpassed the amount of the grant. This allowed us to continue our preschool and scholarship program at the MCC preschool.

When a door closes, a window opens and the MCC was a recipient of 2 unanticipated grants. MCC was notified in November that we would be receiving grant money from the Orange County Community Foundation in California through the Thormahlen family. We were also notified in December that we were a recipient of grant money from the Star Peak Foundation out of Heron, Montana. MCC is grateful and thankful to these foundations who sought MCC out and chose to support our efforts.

Preschool remains the central focus of the MCC. Classes started in September with 12 active children. We ended the year with a consistent eight thriving students under the guidance of our wonderful teachers, Ms. Mona and Ms. Toni.

Christmas Giving was a huge success. We assisted 22 families including 22 children. The MCC donated \$3,000 to the Clark Fork Hope Food Bank to assist with meals and a Christmas dinner box for the families. It was a joy to see and hear the appreciation from the families when they came to pick up their gifts.

### WHAT IS NEW IN 2025

To better serve the needs of the community, the Preschool will expand hours from 9:00 -1:00 pm and add Monday, increasing to 4 days a week.

Classes and activities will continue as well as our free music event in June, July, and August. Fundraising will continue at our events and also virtually. Oktoberfest will be September 20<sup>th</sup>, and an evening of Christmas Music will be held in mid-December.

#### SPECIAL THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to Christine Kelley who retired from the board. Her and Ken's dedication and contributions will not be forgotten. We look forward to seeing both Christine and Ken at future events.

Thank you to Eleanor Durham who joined the board this year as a board member. She has jumped in with both feet and is an active member of the board.

#### THANK YOU, BORD OF DIRECTORS

MCC has an amazing group of women who make up the board. Cynthia Fox (Vice Chair), Lori Finnerty (Treasurer), Vera Gadman, Ellen Westfall, Vivian Sadler, and Eleanor Durham. Each with their own creativity, skills, and talents, and who work tirelessly to support the MCC and its activities. Board members actively participate in, and contribute to, the Board's operations by providing oversight, decision making, and advocacy to ensure the successful execution of the organization's goal. Board members host and co-host fundraising events throughout the year. I would be remiss if I did not thank the husbands, partners, family and friends of Board members, who continually show up to support the efforts.

Ladies, thank you for your ongoing support of the MCC. It is an honor to serve beside you.

Friends of the MCC, thank you for your continued support, generosity and kindness.

To the Volunteers of MCC, thank you! You are a vital part of MCC's success. The MCC's mission could be accomplished without you.

I am excited for 2025 and look forward to seeing you.

With gratitude,

Ley Anne Merica

MCC Board Chairperson