

serve montana

2011 Volunteers of the Game

The Governor's Office of Community Service recognized volunteers at the 2011 Bobcat and Grizzlies home football games.



"Montana has a long tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. Those who volunteer are truly unsung heroes and it is their hard work and dedication that helps make our state great."

-Governor Brian Schweitzer

Meet the 2011 Volunteers of the Game!



Learn more about ServeMontana and how you can make a difference at serve.mt.gov!

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9/10/11 Bobcat Game

Bozeman Fire Department

In honor of the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, Bozeman firefighters were recognized as the *Volunteers of the Game*. The Bozeman Fire Department has been serving the Bozeman community since 1884. Their public service goes beyond responding to fires. Every year they provide fire safety education to over 3,000 schoolchildren.



Firefighters are also trained in hazmat services, EMS, and are certified car seat technicians. The Bozeman firefighters give back with their annual "Fill the Boot" fundraiser to benefit children with muscular dystrophy. This is part of the "Fill the Boot" tradition that began in 1952 when 20 firefighters in Boston carried out a door-to-door canister drive to raise money for a child with muscular dystrophy.



9/10/11 Griz Game

Missoula Fire Department

In honor of the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, Missoula firefighters were recognized as the *Volunteers of the Game*. The Missoula Fire Department has been serving the Missoula community since 1927. Their public service goes beyond responding to fires. Firefighters educate the public through their door-to-door smoke detector program, provide counseling to children engaged in fire setting, and give back with their charitable work and donations to local organizations.



"The Missoula Firefighters Union Local 271 is proud to be able to give back to our community," said Jeff Kroll, President of IAFF L-271. "Our Union Firefighters recently volunteered over 400 hours and raised over \$5,000 to host our 2nd annual Military Veterans Retreat. We are also proud to say that we raised \$18,460 with this year's fill the boot campaign where all of the proceeds go to help children with Muscular Dystrophy."

9/17/11 Bobcat Game



Montana Conservation Corps

As part of National Preparedness Month, AmeriCorps members with the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) were honored at the Bobcat game. During the flooding this spring, MCC members filled sandbags in the Bozeman and Missoula communities. This summer, MCC collaborated with other National Service programs and volunteer organizations to clean up flood damage in the Roundup area. Over 100 volunteers helped reclaim and manage land by repairing and clearing more than five miles of fence line, removing debris, and stacking usable firewood. MCC members also helped reduce flooding in the Billings area by removing a logjam.



Nathan Bolton and Ben Farrick accepted the award on behalf of the Montana Conservation Corps.

9/17/11 Griz Game

Curt Belts



Curt Belts was recognized for his flood relief work as part of National Preparedness Month. During the flooding this June, Curt Belts stepped up to fill the need as volunteer coordinator in Missoula. Volunteers overwhelmed the Missoula County flooding hotlines with calls from people wanting to know how they could help. The United Way of Missoula County took over coordinating volunteers with Belts as the volunteer manager. He matched up volunteers with community needs and made sure the details such as sunscreen, food, water, and bug spray were all covered. Belts ended up coordinating over 50 volunteers a day to fill and haul sandbags when homes were at risk for flooding.

“United Way is grateful for Curt Belt’s service to our community,” said Beth Frazee, Director of Development and Marketing at the United Way of Missoula County. “We were honored to help coordinate volunteers and funds for local flood relief. Belts was absolutely instrumental in this process. A retired fire chief, Belts was accustomed to dealing with emergencies. He made sure that hundreds of volunteers were well screened and placed at different sites to help our neighbors during this traumatic time.”



Curt Belt’s daughters Amy Bone and Randi Larson accepted the award on his behalf.

10/1/11 Bobcat Game

Thrive

Thrive, a Bozeman nonprofit, was recognized as the *Volunteer of the Game* for their commitment to children and families and for engaging volunteers in making a difference in the Bozeman Community. For 25 years, Thrive has actively engaged volunteers in their organization’s work. Thrive provides education, support and resources to a generation of families and kids. Thrive encourages healthy family and child development through community awareness, parent education, and support to children and families ensuring positive outcomes for children. In 2010 alone, there were 561 children in the Child Advancement Project, 240 girls from all over the state at the Girls for a Change conference, and thousands of parents who participated in Parent Place activities.



“Thrive is honored to accept the Governor’s Office of Community Service’s Volunteer of the Game recognition,” said Deborah Neuman, Executive Director of Thrive. “We benefit from the time and talents of over 700 volunteers, an amazing board, a remarkable professional staff, strong collaborative partners, and the unending support of local business and individuals. When families are strong, children succeed and communities thrive. Everyone benefits.”

Deborah Neuman received the award from Commissioner Robert Nystuen.

10/1/11 Griz Game



Garden City Harvest

Garden City Harvest was honored for their commitment to growing healthy food for Missoula families and using volunteers to grow and deliver food to those who need it. Garden City Harvest, a Missoula nonprofit, builds community through agriculture by growing produce with and for people with low-incomes, offering education and training in agriculture, and using gardens for the personal restoration of youth and adults. Garden City Harvest’s 200 volunteers work in gardens that provide over 30,000 pounds of food each season for those in need. In 2010, their produce provided over 22,000 meals through the Montana Food Bank alone.

Jayson Mandala and Genevieve Jessop Marsh received the award from Governor Brian Schweitzer on behalf of Garden City Harvest.



10/15/11 Bobcat Game



Jim Korth

Jim Korth was recognized in Bozeman for his extraordinary commitment to helping veterans. Jim Korth works with the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, but his commitment to serving veterans in the community extends well beyond his day job. This summer, Korth helped coordinate the second annual “Veteran Stand Down” that reached out

to local veterans and families. During the Stand Down, over 300 veterans received free services including haircuts, medical screenings, and employment assistances provided by 200 volunteers. Korth has also been instrumental in organizing the monthly Veterans Service Provider Meetings in Bozeman. These meetings bring together all the different agencies that support veterans including representatives from the City of Bozeman and our State Senate offices. Korth is committed to connecting veterans to the services they need.

“Whenever there is a need for a volunteer Jim Korth is the go to guy,” said Brenda York, MSU’s Director of Disability, Re-Entry and Veterans Services. “He is always there for the Bozeman community.”



Dan Villa, Education Advisor for the Governor, presented the award to Jim Korth.

10/15/11 Griz Game

Patty Stevens

Patty Stevens was honored for her outstanding community leadership in Indian Country. Patty Stevens is committed to improving her community on the Flathead Reservation by working with children and families. Stevens believes that it is important to bring elders, adults, and kids together for healthy and fun events that benefit the community

and keep tribal cultural traditions alive. This summer, Stevens and her husband sponsored a Horse and Culture Camp that gave local children exposure to horses and provided a safe place to gather. "Volunteerism is the best contribution you can make to your community," said Patty Stevens. "Volunteering shows you care." Stevens' dedication to youth shows through her time as a foster parent, mentor to Youth Challenge Program graduates, and Ronan School Board member. Stevens' personal story was featured in the "Keep Talking Montana" video that educates parents and kids about the consequences of underage drinking. In the video, Stevens encourages parents to keep talking to their kids and other parents about the importance of preventing underage drinking. Stevens' son died in an alcohol related accident and she does not want any parent to have to go through the pain of losing a child.



Karin Olsen Billings, Commission Vice Chair, presented the award to Patty Stevens.

10/29/11 Bobcat Game

Margrit Firehammer

Margrit Firehammer was recognized for her outstanding community leadership providing tax assistance for hard-working Montanans. Margrit Firehammer serves as the Site Coordinator for the Bozeman VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program that helps low-income clients with their tax returns. Margrit became certified VITA volunteer in 1993 after helping her elderly Aunt Sue for years. For two years, Margrit volunteered by herself preparing returns in retirement homes and business conference rooms. Now Margrit coordinates a dedicated group of six volunteers. Jack Robbins, Don Kress, Don Mathre, Diann Harding, and Ed Ferrell join Margrit Firehammer at the Bozeman Public Library every Tuesday starting in February. "I am proud of the service our VITA volunteers provide to the Bozeman community," said Margrit Firehammer. "Last year we helped over 350 people with their tax returns and we are looking forward to helping even more people this year."



Margrit Firehammer received the award with fellow volunteers Don Kress and Jack Robbins.



10/29/11 Griz Game

Billy Izzard

Billy Izzard was honored for his commitment to creating a community garden in Milltown. Billy Izzard had an idea for a garden in Milltown in the winter of 2009. This fall, the Milltown Garden Patch wrapped up its second successful growing season. The community garden is on land provided by Milltown Water Users Association and provides garden space for the residents of Milltown, Bonner, Riverside, and East Missoula. This year over 300 pounds of produce from the garden were donated to the Missoula Food Bank and local churches.

Billy Izzard believes that the Milltown Garden Patch serves as a place to not only grow food but to also bring together families and communities. He hopes to develop an annual pumpkin sale that will provide scholarship for local students to attend college. This year the sale raised over \$600 for local education programs. The garden also served as a summer site for students from the AWARE program at Bonner Elementary. Students tended their patch weekly while learning math and science skills in the garden.



11/19/11 Bobcat/Griz Game



Gallatin Valley Food Bank

The Gallatin Valley Food Bank was recognized as the *Volunteer of the Game* in conjunction with the *Can the Griz* challenge for Bobcat Fans. This *Can the Griz* food drive benefited the Gallatin Valley Food Bank by inviting the public to make food and cash donations to beat the *Can the Cats* food drive effort at UM.

The Gallatin Valley Food Bank has been providing an emergency food supply to the greater Gallatin Valley for almost 30 years. In 2010, they served more than 9,600 people. Volunteers support the food bank through their hours spent sorting donations, repacking bulk food items, stocking shelves, picking up donations, delivering KidsPack and Senior Grocery foods, and directly serving those in need. Last year, more than 580 volunteers provided nearly 11,200 hours of service.

“It’s a tremendous honor to accept the Volunteer of the Game award on behalf of all of our volunteers who have helped us throughout the year,” said Tim Trzinski, Program Director of the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. “Without the tremendous support of our wonderfully dedicated volunteers the work we do would be a seemingly insurmountable task. Our volunteers allow us to serve our community in ways we would never be able to do on our own. We cannot thank them enough.”

The 2011 *Can the Griz* challenge raised 57,713 pounds of food for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank.

Volunteers Jhett Johnson and his father Lt. Mark Johnson received the award from the Governor on behalf of the Gallatin Valley Food Bank.



11/5/11 Griz Game



Missoula Food Bank

The Missoula Food Bank was recognized as the *Volunteer of the Game* in conjunction with the *Can the Cats* challenge for Grizzly Fans. The *Can the Cats* food drive benefited the Missoula Food Bank by inviting the public to make food and cash donations to meet the goal of collecting over 40,000 pounds of food to beat the *Can the Griz* food drive effort at MSU.

Missoula Food Bank has been providing an emergency food supply to the Missoula community for almost 30 years. In 2010, they served more than 15,700 people. Volunteers are essential to all aspects of their operation including stocking shelves, boxing groceries, sorting deliveries for seniors and stuffing backpacks with supplemental food for kids during the summertime. Last year, more than 900 volunteers provided over 17,500 hours of service.

“Missoula Food Bank is grateful to the wonderful people in Missoula who make our work possible,” said Cynthia Lotty, Executive Director of Missoula Food Bank. “Volunteers are the cornerstone of our service delivery system who gives us the opportunity to serve our community.”

The 2011 *Can the Cats* Challenge raised 18,963 pounds of food for the Missoula Food Bank.



Dorey Rowland, Rita Cheek, Kathy McCart, and Owen Stavish received the award on behalf of the Missoula Food Bank.