



## Plenary Session Descriptions

### OPENING KEYNOTE

#### **Growing Montana Communities with Pam Gerwe and Mike Jopeck of Purple Frog Gardens**

Service is simply contributing to the welfare of others. It may be as simple as shoveling the neighbors sidewalk. It may be as complex as getting elected to serve in the Legislature, City Council, or School Board. Service involves people interacting with other people. Service is what *grows our Montana Communities!*

Learn from Pam and Mike as they have served their community in so many ways including acting as a school board watchdog, supporting and developing a community trail system, starting a garden box program for seniors, helping kick start and improve a community garden, growing food for the food bank, being a board member for their favorite non-profits, working as a public servant, serving on a governmental advisory board and teaching young people.

### AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Lt. Governor John Bohlinger and First Lady Nancy Schweitzer will recognize 20 outstanding individuals and organizations for their commitment to Montana with the *ReadyMontana Awards*, *ServeMontana Awards* and *First Lady Math & Science Awards*. The luncheon meal will feature local Montana ingredients.

### KEYNOTE

#### **America's Commitment to Service- Past & Present, with Frank Greer, Founding Partner of GMMB**

America is a country that has always valued and encouraged its citizens' commitment to service. Our spirit of service helped to build stronger communities, protect our natural wonders, spread Democracy and good will around the world, and lift the nation up through some of our most challenging times. Building on a strong legacy of service in the 21st Century requires an understanding of how national service programs have evolved over the last 100 years, as well as an ability to effectively communicate the value that service programs provide every day across America.

## PLENARY

### **AmeriCorps Alumni Panel with Melanie Reynolds, Ann Brodsky, Heidi Gibson, Taylor Lyon, Jason Smith and Kirsten Vorreyer**

This alumni panel is an opportunity for past AmeriCorps volunteers to share their year of service experiences and the impact it had on their lives and the organizations they worked with. The collective experience of the panel stretches back over thirty years in communities across the state. Each of the alumni on the panel remains engaged in service-related professions and has a passion for strengthening Montana's communities. Panel moderator, Melanie Reynolds, served as a VISTA on the Blackfeet Reservation in 1981 and currently serves as the Health Officer for the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department.

## CLOSING KEYNOTE

### **Growing a Garden City: Unlocking the People Power for Positive Change with Jeremy Smith**

Join us as Jeremy N. Smith, author of *Growing a Garden City*, speaks on unlocking people power for positive change in Montana's diverse communities and institutions. Smith will share surprising, inspiring stories from his book, in which 15 main characters he calls the "new faces of local food"—a troubled teen, a grandmother of 20, a homeless shelter chef, a single mother, a food bank officer, an entire first grade class, and more—transformed themselves and their Montana neighborhoods through the intersection of agriculture and community, and discuss larger lessons for "growing together" state-wide.

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## Breakout Session Descriptions

### **Volunteer Management- Part 1 with Adraine Kreglo of Serendipity Solutions and Patty White of Build Montana**

Recruiting, retaining, and recognizing volunteers is essential in effective Volunteer Management. Participants will be introduced to the *Volunteer Management Toolkit*, a new, online resource designed to assist in creating or enhancing your volunteer program with sample forms, templates, and innovative project ideas. Participants will receive a printed copy of the *Volunteer Management Toolkit*.

### **Volunteer Management – Part 2 with Adraine Kreglo of Serendipity Solutions and Patty White of Build Montana**

This interactive, in-depth session will familiarize participants with the new *Volunteer Management Toolkit*, encouraging volunteer managers to implement the online tools to build and expand volunteer programs in their communities. Participants will receive a printed copy of the *Volunteer Management Toolkit* and will be given time to start creating their plan through exercises and group discussion.

### **Link Planning to Performance: Design, Communicate, and Deliver your Plan with Linda Tracy of the Steele-Reese Foundation**

Nonprofit leaders are doers who see problems and often intuitively start rolling up their sleeves to address them. Yet to commit resources, funding decision-makers need to be able to clearly understand nonprofit objectives and how these organizations can make a difference. Explore with your peers how to more clearly communicate what difference you plan to make (outcomes), what you plan to do (objectives), how you plan to do it (strategies), and how you will know how well you are performing (evaluation).

### **Reflections on Social Change- Bob FitzGerald**

Learn from community member and long time instigator of change, Bob FitzGerald. He believes that we are all here to help move the world to a better place, to be a “nudge” person... right in our own neighborhood! Hear reflections on Bob’s almost 40 years of experience with progressive causes and learn how “we can look at the world as if each of us is a note in a worldwide chord, and if we then change our note to sound better, we in a small sense change the entire world chord for the better.”

### **Good Soil: Eight Principles for Building Agreement and Breaking Down Communication Barriers with Nedra Chandler.**

Meaningful dialog in community settings is like good soil. Satisfying solutions grow there. Sometimes our questions and responses become too shallow – not rich enough. Why? Come practice listening for three elements in nearly every question and practice asking questions that evoke thought and connection rather than impasse.

### **Imagine Montana: Tools for Change with Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer of Hopa Mountain**

Can you imagine an inclusive, sustainable economy? A Montana where our most vulnerable neighbors have opportunities to prosper and all children realize their full potential? If so, we need you to *Imagine Montana* and use your talents, skills and gifts to make it happen! In this session, come prepared to share your hopes for Montana and your ideas on how we get there. Hopa Mountain’s executive director, Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer, will facilitate this session and share some asset-based community organizing tools and new resources to help you move your innovative ideas to action!

### **EDUCATION- Nancy’s Garden: the First Lady Connects the Classroom to the Community with Anna Green, Toby Day, Brent Sarchet, and Phyllis White**

Nancy’s Garden, a feature of the Governor and First Lady’s Math & Science Initiative, supplies grow boxes, seeds, lesson plans, and instructions for Montana classrooms. Learn how volunteers are connecting this classroom garden to the community and participate in a hands-on planting activity.

### **HEALTHY FUTURES-Livingston Food Pantry: Resource Strategies with Michael McCormick**

Food – It’s the common denominator; we all have to eat, regardless of our economic or social situation. The Livingston Food Pantry of Park County has played an integral role in the development of a sustainable local food system, using food production and processing as a catalyst for economic development, and making fresh, local food available to all people.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP- Blackfoot Challenge: Demonstrating Collaboration with Gary Burnett and Sara Schmidt**

The Blackfoot Challenge formed in 1993 to follow an inclusive, consensus-based approach to coordinate efforts that conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life in the Blackfoot Watershed. By facilitating open and productive communication between all watershed stakeholders, public and private, communities build trust, credibility and sustainable resource solutions.

### **VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES-Veterans Outreach Pilot Project: Volunteers helping Veterans with Wendy Plymale, Betty Vail, Amy Busch, Clair Bopp, and Jim Auer**

Learn about an exciting and unique partnership between the Montana Department of Labor and Industry and National Service Volunteers focused on reaching veterans living throughout rural areas of the state. Hear insights from volunteers on state of Montana’s veterans and learn how you can be involved.

### **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY- Strengthening the Circle: Building Native Nonprofit Leadership with Marissa Spang**

*Strengthening the Circle*, a Native Nonprofit Leadership Program, helps build the organizational sustainability and effectiveness of Native nonprofit organizations. It is an exciting time, and important work, as Native nonprofits in reservation communities are becoming an emerging force for strengthening community self-reliance, entrepreneurial approaches and new services to ensure that Native children and their families have a better future. In this session, learn more about this unique training opportunity that is open to Native executive director and Board members and receive training materials that have been specifically developed for nonprofit organizations in Indian Country.

### **DISASTER SERVICES-Event Planning: Prepare Your Community with Adraine Kreglo and Pam Sanderson**

Disaster mitigation is key to ensuring that neighborhoods are prepared for emergencies. Grassroots organizations and groups of volunteers can coordinate events year round such as home safety assessments and block parties to acquaint residents. Learn how to organize fun projects to enhance everyone’s safety in disasters.

**EDUCATION- Service-Learning: Learning through doing with Community Cooking Connections with Wendi Fawns**

This workshop is an overview of how service-learning programs help to Grow Montana Communities. Two organizations, MAPs Media Institute and Community Cooking Connection, demonstrate how to build partnerships and vibrant volunteer organizations, and how to engage youth voice for the purpose of strengthening communities and meeting specific healthy living (food, nutrition, and safety) and education (STEM) goals.

**HEALTHY FUTURES- Rural Friday: Connecting Students to Healthy Food with Leah Grunzke, FoodCorps VISTA**

Through unique programs like Beaverhead County's "Rural Fridays", FoodCorps is putting volunteers in at-risk communities, working to develop community-based, sustainable food systems. Learn how delivering hands-on nutrition education, developing schoolyard and community gardens, and connecting local producers to school cafeterias is helping build enduring relationships with healthy food in Montana.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP- Gaining Leadership Outdoors: Experiential Learning and Environmental Awareness with Samsara Chapman and Devin Cowan**

Many volunteer programs across the state take advantage of Montana's unparalleled outdoors to get people of all ages learning outside. This session will look at a few successful Montana programs and discuss the outdoor classroom's role in leadership development and environmental stewardship.

**VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES- Re-connecting Veterans: Gaining Job Skills through Service with the Montana Conservation Corps including Lee Gault and Tazha Grantham**

Veterans returning to Montana from IEF/IAF face many challenges including high unemployment, re-integrating back home and applying skills learned in the military experience to civilian careers. The Veterans Green Corps is one program helping veterans transitioning to civilian life while providing useful job skills and certifications.

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY-Empowering those in Poverty with Alison Paul and Brittany Waiss of Montana Legal Services Association**

Hear a brief history of the only statewide provider of free civil legal services to low income Montanans. Discussion will include history, tactics and challenges for Montana Legal Services Association from its origin in President Johnson's War on Poverty up to the present day.

**DISASTER SERVICES- Managing Volunteers in Times of Disaster with Adraine Kreglo and Pam Sanderson**

People with big hearts are going to show up in the aftermath of a disaster to “help” even if a community is not ready for them. Learn the tools necessary to set up, implement, and stand down a Volunteer Reception Center immediately after an emergency. Participate in a hands on simulation exercise.

**Grant Writing: Sustaining Your Organization with Adraine Kreglo**

This Grant Writing 101 session takes the fear out of researching, drafting, submitting, and implementing grant proposals to corporate, government, private, and public foundations. Adraine will share her 25 years of experience in writing and reviewing submissions along with tips and tricks of the grant writing field to help insure that proposals you write are funded to support your organization. Participants will have the opportunity to draft a grant proposal in the amount of \$2,500 and learn how to leverage small grants for additional, sustainable income to support programs and projects. Switch hats and review some real proposals, too. Bring your ideas and creativity for this interactive experience!

**Montana Commission on Community Service Meeting**

The Governor-appointed Montana Commission on Community Service works to expand and promote national service and volunteer opportunities in Montana. The Commission meets quarterly and all meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted at [serve.mt.gov](http://serve.mt.gov).

*(Session Descriptions updated 2/16/12)*