The kids need you! They love to learn about animals.

Education will be the cornerstone of Margaret J. Maclean Animal Welfare Center. The Animal Foundation of Great Falls needs your help to “open the doors” to the Center. We’ve come a long way, but there’s a lot more to do. Our goal is to raise $1 million in donations or pledges to help us apply for a loan to complete the project. Thus far, we have raised approximately $515,000. Once funding is secured, our general contractor estimates construction will likely be completed in four to six months and the Margaret J. Maclean Animal Welfare Center brought into operation.

Many of you have given before and we appreciate all you’ve done. Please consider another gift to help us meet this challenge. Any amount, large or small, is appreciated!

WAYS TO GIVE
1. Mail a check to AF December Challenge | Box 3426, Great Falls, MT 59403. Please specify “December Challenge” on your check.
2. Donate securely online: theanimalfoundation.org
3. Make a new pledge (with up to 3 years to pay!) Email Development Director Pam Volk: director@theanimalfoundation.org Call: 727.7387 for details.

Thanks to another GENEROUS anonymous donor, we have a $20,000 MATCHING FUNDS CHALLENGE! From October 17 to December 31, 2013, the amount you donate will be matched dollar for dollar up to $20,000. Your money will go TWICE AS FAR to help build the education room and animal areas. Education will be the cornerstone of the Margaret J. Maclean Animal Welfare Center.

The kids need you! They love to learn about animals.

Education will be the cornerstone. One of the driving missions of the Center will be to educate people of all ages about responsible pet ownership. Kids can learn at an early age about empathy and compassion at summer and holiday camps. Workshops designed to help owners learn to deal with common behavior problems like house soiling, scratching and digging are crucial to keep pets from being surrendered to shelters.
Time Flies When You’re Off Leash and Chasin’ Tail

Hard to believe the Pacific Steel & Recycling Trailside Dog Park (long name – fun place) has already been open for more than four years. I remember when the Animal Foundation first proposed developing a dog park in Great Falls. At that time, the most common question we heard was: “What’s a dog park?” Which was usually followed by: “And why the heck do we need one, anyway?”

Now, most people in Great Falls are aware that a dog park is a place for dogs to be able to safely play off leash while still in the city limits. And the reason we need one has been well-answered by the dogs and their people.

When you visit, you will meet people who take their dogs to the park on a regular basis. The reasons why they go are many. Here are a few:

- My dog loves to run and I don’t have a yard.
- I’m retired and I meet my friend and her dog here almost every morning.
- We drink coffee while our dogs have a great time playing together.
- My dogs like to pretend they’re super dogs and fly off the ramp.
- My dog starts whining the minute she sees the park. If I don’t stop she gets very sad.
- I like sitting on the bench and watching my little guy tear it up with the other little dogs.

But my favorite is the man who said, “When I was young, I used to love taking my kids to the park. Now my kids are grown and moved away and I bring my dog to the dog park. The family tradition continues.”

The PS&R Trailside Dog Park was developed through a partnership between the Animal Foundation and the City of Great Falls Park & Recreation Department. The Park Department says the Dog Park is the third most popular park in the city. Quite an accomplishment for a park in a city that is lucky enough to have many, many parks. The Park Department has done an outstanding job of maintaining the Dog Park and we have been told by many visitors that our dog park is one of the few in the northwest region that has grass and trees.

The overall success of any dog park depends not only on the design and maintenance, but also on the character and actions of the people and dogs who use it. Just like when any public facility is used, courtesy and respect—from both canines and humans—is important for a pleasant experience.

I look forward to the day we can celebrate the 10th anniversary of the PS&R Dog Park.

Woof! Woof!

–Melanie Lattin

Opening the Doors / $20K Challenge
Please give what you can!

If you’d like to pledge a gift over time, and/or purchase a naming right, please contact Development Director Pam Volk at 727.7387.

Name (please print)
Address
City / State / Zip
Phone
Email
Amount
Credit Card Number
Expiry
Same as it appears on credit card
Off
Check Number
Signature

Please make checks payable to the Animal Foundation of Great Falls and write Opening the Doors on the memo line.

Mail to Box 3426, Great Falls, MT 59403

Tax ID No. 72-1537063

Make your pet a pin-up!

Go online to design your customized pet calendar or memory book today!

www.printingcenterusa.com

THANK YOU Printing Center USA for printing and mailing our newsletter!

Please help open the doors to homeless pets in need!

Think about the urgent need to improve animal welfare in our community. Please give as much as you can in whatever amount you feel appropriate to help our Foundation open the doors.

Opening the Doors / $20K Challenge
Please give what you can!

If you’d like to pledge a gift over time, and/or purchase a naming right, please contact Development Director Pam Volk at 727.7387.

Name (please print)
Address
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Amount
Credit Card Number
Expiry
Same as it appears on credit card
Off
Check Number
Signature

The Animal Foundation named the large dog side of the PS&R Trailside Dog Park to honor John Gilbert, one of the Foundation’s founding trustees and officers. Pictured are his wife, Donna; their dog Beemer, John’s father Bill Gilbert, John’s son Bill Gilbert, and John’s mother, Thelma (Sis) Gilbert.
Ninth Annual Fur Ball
A Howling Success!

What a party and another sell-out crowd!
The Foundation’s 9th Annual Fur Ball at The Heritage Inn broke all previous records and the event excited everyone, according to co-chairs Katie and Jeremiah Johnson. We added more fresh faces to the committee, offered new and exciting auction items, and changed the room layout. We enjoyed another exciting evening thanks to Master of Ceremonies, Mark Higgins. We met the Purple Paw winner, a beautiful black cat named Stanley, and we were shown a video celebrating the dogs that assisted with rescue efforts at Ground Zero and comforted survivors on September 11, 2001.

Auctioned items included two photo safaris to South Africa, fabulous traditional Indian meals, and a trip for four to a Seattle Seahawks game. We conducted our first “paddle raise” to name a dog suite at the new Margaret J. Maclean Animal Welfare Center in honor of the 9/11 rescue dogs. The generosity and enthusiasm overwhelmed everyone and contributors donated more than $17,000!

Memorable Ways to Help the Animals of our Community

• Donate or Pledge to the “Opening the Doors Campaign” – our final push in completing this outstanding project (See form on page 2)
• Honor a pet or friend with a memorial gift
• Join the Animal Foundation as a member at the $10 to $500 and above level
• Purchase an engraved paver to remember and honor those important to you
• Secure a naming right designation at the Margaret J. Maclean Animal Welfare center for your business or individually

Contact our office for more information on any of the above: 727-7387.

What to remember:
• The Margaret J. Maclean Animal Center will be an educational happening. And it doesn’t stop there—we plan an outreach program for schools too. Stay tuned. Help us Open the Doors and watch the educational impact we will have on northcentral Montana.

Susan Dell rolled up her sleeves 10 years ago to help the Animal Foundation in planning and co-chairing the first Fur Ball, and she hasn’t stopped working tirelessly on our projects since.

By day, Susan is the senior executive assistant to Bill Johnstone, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Davidson Companies. At night or on weekends, however, Susan can be found co-chairing the Foundation’s Fur Ball committee, selling raffle tickets, preparing spreadsheets, or convincing others to contribute time and money to make the new animal welfare center a reality. Her “can do” attitude makes her a tremendous volunteer for our organization!

Susan said she became interested in the Foundation and continues to work for its success because, “I’ve learned so much about animal welfare and what we can do to protect and help make life better for our four-legged friends. There have been long days (and nights) but there has been much fun and laughter and I’ve made wonderful friends. For me, life is simply better with a pet. They love you unconditionally and they make me smile.” She also convinced her husband, Dennis, a retired music teacher, to help out as well.

A high-energy, enthusiastic community volunteer, Susan has co-chaired the successful Fur Ball for 8 years. She convinced her daughter and son-in-law, Katie and Jeremiah Johnson, to become the co-chairs and they did so for 2 years. But Susan continued to work on the committee and after Katie delivered Susan’s first grandchild, Estella, in October 2013, Susan agreed to again co-chair the Fur Ball.

The Foundation values Susan not only for her contributions to the AF but for her community service in many areas. She played in the Great Falls Symphony for years, is active in her church, is an avid golfer, gourmet cook, and loves to spend summer weekends at Flathead Lake with her friends and family. She spoils her 15-year old dog, Daisy, and wouldn’t be the same vibrant person without her furry little family member.

Thank you, Susan, for your long and continued support of the Animal Foundation. We would not be where we are today if it were not for your hard work, good advice, and support.
Is your dog or cat a member of your family?

Has he or she made you laugh, greeted you in its own special way, and comforted you when you needed a gentle purr or that dog-stare to make sure you were ok?

What will happen to your devoted friends when you pass away?

Please consider choosing the Animal Foundation to help your pets when you no longer can. When you join our Legacy Society, we will care for your dogs or cats, provide a foster home and search for a permanent, loving home for them.

If you include the Animal Foundation in your estate planning as an unrestricted gift, we promise to care for these members of your family. We know they are important to you and they will be important to us too.

Please call Pam Volk at 727-7387 for further details.

Painless Giving – While You Shop!

Do you shop online? If your answer is yes, please help raise money by signing up at iGive.com.

Simple steps for enrollment:

1. **Provide your email address and set up a password for your account.** There are no pop-ups, no sharing of your email address, and the service is free to you and to The Animal Foundation.

2. **Following registration and installation, do your online shopping as usual.** If the online store you are using participates in the iGive program a portion of your purchase will be donated to The Animal Foundation of Great Falls.

If you are in the website of a participating store, an iGive button will notify you that this store is a participant, and you can elect to have the donation sent to The Animal Foundation of Great Falls.

Most participating stores will give at least 0.8% of every purchase.

The iGive program has generated donations of over $6 million to causes since its inception several years ago, and the average iGive shopper raises over $50 a year using this program.

This is an easy installation, do your online shopping as usual and they will be important to us too.

The Animal Foundation of Great Falls

Management Committee Report

The Management Committee is a seven-person committee comprised of a consultant for animal shelters and animal welfare organizations (Kim Statton), a member of the Animal Foundation Board (Steve Titcomb) and two veterinarians (Tim Gilligan and Elizabeth Jennings). Other members include a dog trainer (Melanie Lattin), a respiratory therapist experienced in cat rescue and fostering (Lisa Hudecek) and a Certified Public Accountant (Dixie Swanson). The majority of the members have years of experience working with animals and volunteering within the animal welfare community. All have a profound interest in advancing animal welfare in our community.

The group is developing policies and procedures for the Margaret J. Maclean Animal Welfare Center, their recent discussion covering a diverse range of topics such as adoption protocols and procedures, altering of animals, vaccinations, microchipping and euthanasia.

The committee is also designing some of the forms and publications that will be used in the day-to-day operation of the center. The committee has created adoption application forms for dogs and cats, and detailed guides have been developed which will be given to each person who adopts an animal from the Center. These educational guides will help people learn how to care for their pets, especially in the first few days as the new cat or dog transitions to a new home.

The Management Committee has many subjects to consider before the center opens. Among other areas, consideration will be given to how to best work with volunteers, rescue groups and foster organizations to increase adoptions. Although the Management Committee has a great deal of work to do, they eagerly look forward to the day when the Center opens.

Spay of the Falls

Fixed 225 Dogs, 425 cats in 2013!

The Animal Foundation held two more successful Spay & Neuter Clinics for low-income pet owners in 2013.

Our latest clinic was held September 14th and 15th. Over the course of two busy days, 287 cats and 130 dogs were fixed. This brings the grand total of animals fixed at the biannual Spay & Neuter Clinics to well over 6,000 since their inception.

That means over 6,000 cats and dogs that have been prevented from producing litters of unwanted kittens and puppies.

That means over 6,000 cats and dogs that are healthier and less susceptible to diseases and infections.

And, of course, that means happier pets, happier owners, and a happier community.

All of this progress could not have been made without the Spay of the Falls Committee’s hard work and dedication.

Thank you to the City of Great Falls for retaining us to alter their city shelter dogs and cats.

A big thank you to all of the wonderful donors, including our newest one: National Laundry.

A little girl named Grace looks over her sleeping kittens in the Kitten Recovery area. Volunteer Rod Clark has assisted Dr. Greg Staton for years at the clinic. Sherry Kaufmann helps take care.

Best pasta fix in town!

It always feels good to give to a cause you believe in.

Diners at the Animal Foundation’s recent Spay-ghetti Dinner got to tuck into a delicious meal AND raise over $13,000 for a great cause.

The yearly dinner collects money for the Foundation’s Spay of the Falls clinics, where cats and dogs are spayed and neutered for free for owners who can’t afford to take their pets to a vet. Thousands of local dogs and cats have been “fixed” over the years thanks to these undertakings.

In exchange for their generosity, patrons of the dinner, held at the Moose Family Center in Black Eagle, enjoyed heaping plates of spaghetti along with salad and breadsticks and, naturally, dessert! Dinners could choose from gingerbread, white chocolate fudge, oatmeal cake, minty chocolate cake oozing with caramel sauce and more. The dessert table was so overloaded with goodies that many patrons heeded the call and went back for more. Across the room, the Sweet Shoppe offered cookies, pies and more to purchase and take home.

We’re fairly certain no one went home hungry.

Best of all, the dinner offered a chance for conversation and catching-up among acquaintances and old friends.

We look forward to seeing you at next year’s feast.

For the love of animals

The Animal Foundation of Great Falls

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On November 28th, 2012, Gerry and I were heading west on an afternoon bike ride. When we got to the location where Flood Road becomes Sunflower Lane, we heard a dog barking, and Gerry said she heard the same barking on her ride earlier in the morning. The more we listened the more the barking sounded like a distress call. The sound seemed to be coming from a rock formation about 200 feet to the north and about 100 feet high. We decided to investigate but could only get up there by first walking east and then steeply up to the upper plateau of the rock formation. The total walk was about 2000 feet to where we found the dog.

He was on the ledge of the rock formation and appeared to be wedged into the rocks in the lying position. The last segment of the path to him was not wide and would accommodate only one person at a time. We did not know how hurt he may be. He was a big dog and I knew I could not lift him out of the rocks and there was no room for two of us to try to pick him up. Gerry went to him (he was very friendly) and began to break away the bushes to his left that seemed to be helping pin him in place. We decided we would need help. Gerry removed the dog’s collar and handed it to me so I could memorize the owner’s telephone number and return home to get help. I journeyed back off the ledge and down the hill and rode back home on the bicycle. Gerry stayed to comfort the dog. When calling the owners by telephone there was no answer so I left a message. When calling the owners by telephone there was no answer so I left a message.

On the way back to the trouble zone I met neighbor Jacque Bucklin and she tried to call a couple of the younger, stronger neighbors to come and help. That effort was not successful. Jacque and I then called Ellen Gauthier of the Animal Foundation who said she would get some help to us. Pam Lernel and Billy Maxwell headed our way from nearby Woodland Estates.

Jacque put in another call to the owners and agreed to stay by her phone should the owners call back. Jacque also gave me a harness that might be helpful in removing Oakley from his predicament. When I got back to the area, Gerry was standing down at the roadside with the dog. She said he had worked his way loose, with her physical help and coaxing, and despite being deaf, mostly blind, hungry, thirsty, and exhausted, this dog tracked with her the considerable distance off the ledge and down the hill.

Clearly, determination and bravery are traits not unique to the human race. We lifted Oakley into the back of the Toyota (with Gerry with him for company) and headed home. Pam and Billy joined us in our driveway. Jacque called to tell us owner Mary Frieling was on her way to retrieve Oakley; and Oakley was drinking water like the planet was about to run out of it.

Mary arrived, loaded Oakley into her car, and headed to the vet for an Oakley checkup. Daniel and Mary dropped by the house that evening. They had been searching for Oakley for six days. This extraordinary dog has survived his lengthy ordeal, and thus the happy ending.

It is heartening to note that so many fine people joined to help one animal in need. It was a very good day.

On October 8, 2013

Sadly, recent events require an update to this narrative. Late in September, Oakley lost an encounter with a rattlesnake. The extensive efforts of family and veterinarian to save him were not successful. Our saddened hearts are with Oakley and our sympathies go to the family who shared his life for 13½ years. Oakley was a special dog. He is gone, but his story lives on.

NOTE: For safety reasons, no children under age 16 can be allowed on the construction site.
A volunteer effort from loving seniors

The air conditioning had broken, the house was closed tight, for hosting a breakfast that Thank you to

A volunteer effort from loving seniors

It started with a phone call from nurse practitioner, Rebecca Lozano. She left the Animal Foundation a voice message that she had a patient who was dying and would shortly be admitted to hospice. She found her patient in his home. The air conditioning had broken, the house was closed tight, and the temperature was hostile. The gentleman was transported to the ER and ultimately to hospice. Rebecca called The Animal Foundation because her patient’s dog, Buddy, could not visit him because Buddy had not received his shots and badly needed grooming. The man desperately wanted to be with Buddy. The Animal Foundation referred Rebecca to several vets and Dr. Tim Gilligan, who worked after office hours, examined the dog and gave him his shots. A local groomer, Nadine at the Animal House, spun her magic on Buddy who was then allowed to visit his friend at hospice before he passed away.

Next, an individual with a breed rescue group assisted and, in a very short time, someone who had just moved to Great Falls adopted Buddy. An Animal Foundation volunteer funded all of the costs. Rebecca said everyone was incredible and stated, “The Animal Foundation was amazing and Buddy received a new life!”

Rebecca

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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Lozano</td>
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Buddy before and after grooming. What a difference!

“We need your help!”

Rebecca

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<td>Rebecca Lozano</td>
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A classroom of charitable givers

A special thanks to the 6th graders at Lewis & Clark School who paid ten cents each time they could “dress up” at school on Fridays. They raised $220 for the Foundation!

“My Brother Likes Cats”

This is a letter with $2 received recently by the Animal Foundation office.

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<tr>
<td>Pam Volk</td>
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Golf for the Animals

First Interstate Bank of Great Falls donated the entire proceeds of their “Charity Golf Scramble” to our Opening the Doors campaign. This donation was matched by the First Interstate Foundation, and the winner of the 50/50 sales donated a portion of the winnings to our campaign. Thank you to everyone!

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Giving is Learned by Pam Volk

Children love tickets – especially gold or red numbered paper ones. Recently, I witnessed giving personalized through such paper pieces.

The selling of 50/50 tickets as a form of fundraising at a sporting or charity event is quite common, but I must say one of the most unique occurrences of this activity I’ve experienced involved a young girl who lives down the street from me.

Recently, Kendra’s grandfather gave her tickets he had left over from a 50/50 drawing. She was motivated to sell these tickets just as she had seen done many times. Upon discussing with her mom the selling of these tickets, it was decided that Kendra would give the proceeds to the Animal Foundation of Great Falls. The story plays out as follows:

Please consider making giving a part of your life and thank you if you have!

For you have discovered that giving feels and produces good!

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Author’s note: Kendra has a very sweet brother, Alex, who also loves animals and should feel great about all of the times he has given to others!
I recently heard this quote and immediately thought to myself, I have been witnessing this philosophy enacted over and over by the members of the Animal Foundation of Great Falls. This group started a grassroots campaign over ten years ago and since that time hasn’t stopped working towards their mission of improving animal welfare within Great Falls and northcentral Montana.

During the first five months of my employment with this organization I have seen volunteerism and giving at incredible levels. This materialized as I witnessed the following:

- Organizing and directing of 80 volunteers per day working tirelessly at two spay and neuter clinics this past spring and fall
- Increasing profits and event success of the Spay-ghetti and Fur Ball fundraisers
- Securing of building interior and exterior naming rights designations from businesses, individuals, and foundations
- Obtaining grants, donations, and pledges following building center tours and presentations of current and future project plans
- Meeting and exceeding a 30K Match Challenge in two months to earn $63,410 towards the Open the Doors capital campaign
- Working to reach another 20K Match Challenge that will result in up to $40,000 in additional funding for the capital campaign
- Raising approximately $515,000 towards a $1 million capital campaign
- Developing a plan that will help us obtain financing to complete the project
- Devising research-based policies and procedures to implement and utilize for building operations upon the Center opening
- Securing community professionals and leaders for Board of Trustees, committee member and chairperson positions
- Highlighting the improvement of animal welfare through the development of an education-based curriculum as the Center’s focus

As I witness this substantial giving, I am reminded that we are dependent on one another and can achieve to the heights we are willing to give.

Giving to a charity helps make our community a better place to live by helping to safeguard goods and services for people and animals that may not otherwise have access to them.

That reminder can have a viral effect and prompt countless others to follow your lead.