



The Honor Roll

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Thanks to You...

Montana Foster Youth Take "A Step Ahead"

Lecture halls and dorm rooms at Carroll College were buzzing with activity July 10-12 as foster care students from across Montana gathered at the school to participate in a college preparatory camp designed to give them a taste of postsecondary education.

The free, three-day "A Step Ahead" camp provided 23 boys and girls with instruction in areas including basic computer skills, debt management techniques and career planning to draw upon when they make the move from high school to college.

In addition, each participant received a new laptop computer to take home – a tool that camp coordinators believe is critical for success in college.

"This camp reinforces the value and impact that postsecondary education can have on a person's life," said Rhonda Safford, camp coordinator and foster care education advocate at Student Assistance Foundation. "In addition, we want the foster care youth to understand that higher education is within their reach."

Safford underscored that message for the students by including information about the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program in the curriculum. Montana foster care youth are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per year to cover the cost of attending a postsecondary school through the ETV program.

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S STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION
Caring About Your Success

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Twenty-three foster care youth attended this year's "A Step Ahead" college preparatory camp at Carroll College in Helena.

Thank.

I would like to thank you for making it possible for the Student Assistance Foundation to have this college prep camp. Thanks for giving us an opportunity to get a brand new HP laptop and spend 3 days at Carroll College. And take all these classes to help us in the future and prepare for college. It has been a really nice stay at the college. I really enjoyed the time I spent at this camp. Without your help I may have never had a chance to attend this cool camp! Thank you so much!

Letter from Tiffany Fisher

A Step Ahead 2007 Donor List

VALEDICTORIAN LEVEL (\$10,000 AND ABOVE)

Liscarnan Solutions LLC

HIGH HONORS (\$2,000 - \$4,999)

Dennis and Phyllis Washington
Foundation

Town Pump Charitable Foundation

HONORS (\$100 - \$1,999)

Big Sky Surgery Center

Adoption Coalition - Wendy's of
Montana

Future Sync (Wendy Samson)

NorthWestern Energy

Jani McCall

Sky Federal Credit Union

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ADDITIONAL THANKS TO:

DPHHS Child & Family Services
Division

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Camp participant Amanda Grace Hogan, 17, said attending the camp made a big difference in moving her toward her goal of attending college, and she encourages other foster care youths to take advantage of the opportunity.

"I would like to encourage other kids to come to the camp and take it seriously," said Hogan, who has been in foster care for 12 years. "Don't make excuses – just make a better life for yourself. Look at your life 30 years from now and the difference having an education will make. Going to college will change your life."

The camp was sponsored by SAF and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). However, "A Step Ahead" would never have been a reality without the generous support of various individuals and businesses, including Liscarnan Solutions, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and the Town Pump Charitable Foundation.

Safford said the \$26,000 in cash and in-kind gifts donated to the camp were critical to its success, and ultimately, the futures of the foster youth who participated in the event.

Where we stand:

2007 Foster Care

Fundraising Goal:

\$25,000

Collected:

\$26,000

Need:

We need your support to provide this important resource to foster youths next year. For more information about how you can help, contact Rhonda Safford at (406) 495-7750.

Golfing for a Cause

Record Year for Circle of Success Grants

Thirty-two teams from across the country converged in Helena Aug. 16 and 17 to enjoy golf and entertainment, while raising \$135,340 for Circle of Success grants.

Circle of Success Grants – formerly Access Circle Grants – were established two years ago through employee contributions. Last year, with the addition of the golf scramble to the fundraising pool, \$45,000 in grants was distributed. The goal of the program is to provide at least one, \$1,000 grant in each of Montana's 56 counties.

"Thanks to the ongoing commitment of Student Assistance Foundation's employees to the program, and the overwhelming generosity of our golf scramble donors and participants, we surpassed our fundraising goal," said Kris MacIntyre, event coordinator. "Now we'll be able to help more Montana students achieve their dreams of attending college by offering two, \$1,000 scholarships in each Montana county."

This year's event included golf at Helena's Green Meadow Country Club and Missoula's Canyon River Golf Course, along with a Montana luau at the scenic Elkhorn View Lodge. Entertainment was provided by the Ringling 5.

Plans are already underway for next year's golf event scheduled for Aug. 14 and 15, 2008.

Where we stand:

Golf Scramble and Excursion

Fundraising Goal:

\$56,000

Collected:

\$135,340

Need:

0

New Web Site Helps Students and their Families “Get Smart”

Free practice SAT and ACT tests. Scholarship information. College descriptions. It's all available on Student Assistance Foundation's (SAF) new Web site, www.SmartAboutCollege.org.

“Our new site provides Montana families with one-stop shopping for college information,” said Kelly Chapman, executive vice president of Foundation Activities for SAF. “On this site, students can search for scholarships and programs, parents can learn more about the various ways to save and pay for college, and educators can access resources to use with their students.”

According to Chapman, the motivation to develop the site flows directly from nonprofit SAF's mission – to provide students and their families with the knowledge and tools to pursue their dreams of postsecondary education.

“At SAF, we believe that everyone should have an opportunity to attain higher education,” she said. “Smart About College provides information regarding almost every facet of preparing for college in an interesting, user-friendly format.”

Chapman said the site offers an excellent blend of the most popular features from SAF's current home page, www.safmt.org, with an expanded base of information for a wider audience.

As such, visitors hoping to take advantage of the services provided through the Montana Career Information System (MCIS) will still be able to do so through Smart About College.

But now they'll also be better able to gather information about how SAF outreach efforts can assist them, and even how they can help students by getting involved in community fundraising efforts.

Donor Profile

Joe Sample, President of MTB Management, Inc.

MTB Management, Inc. has been operating Taco Bell stores in Montana since 1987. President Joe Sample, with the help of his family, concentrates his efforts on seven stores in Western Montana. In addition to his business investments, Joe is active in Montana's philanthropic community. He serves on the board of directors for the Missoula Art Museum, and also is a member of the board of directors for Missoula's chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

MTB Management, Inc. has partnered with Student Assistance Foundation for two years to support College Goal Sunday.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO HELP MONTANA STUDENTS AND FAMILIES REACH THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION GOALS?

We want to help others achieve their dreams. For example, we are currently working to craft an internal scholarship program for MTB Management staff with the help of employees. The focus of the program is to encourage Taco Bell employees to pursue their dreams of higher education. I believe that learning is a lifelong journey.

WHY DO YOU PARTNER WITH SAF?

I believe in the College Goal Sunday program because it's something that helps Montana families take action. Through the support of programs like College Goal Sunday, more Montana youths can be encouraged to pursue their dreams of higher education, be that through a two-year or four-year degree. We are building a partnership – a true collaboration between a nonprofit and a business.

For taking the time to complete a short survey about the new Smart About College Web site, Jane Makepeace, an eighth grade student in St. Ignatius, won a new laptop computer from SAF. Congratulations Jane, and thanks for helping us make Smart About College better for Montana students!



www.SmartAboutCollege.org

Knowing How to Go is Half the Battle!

In October, Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) and other members of the Montana College Access Network launched a Web site geared to providing students and their parents with specific steps to follow in order to attain their goal of postsecondary education.

"The information provided at www.KnowHow2GOMontana.org gives Montana students a road map, and in so doing, empowers them to shape their future," said Kelly Chapman, SAF's executive vice president of Foundation Activities.

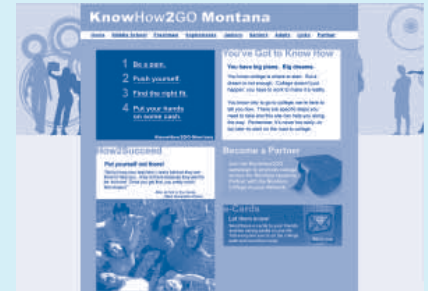
The Web site operates on the premise of four steps that guide students toward higher education. Those are:

- Be a pain – in a good way.
- Push yourself and don't stop.
- Find the right fit.
- Put your hands on some cash.

The Montana KnowHow2Go Web site is an extension of a national KnowHow2Go initiative aimed at encouraging and preparing more low-income and first-generation students to actively pursue higher education. The campaign is supported by the Lumina Foundation for Education, the American Council on Education and The Ad Council.

The Montana College Access Network partners include SAF, TRIO, GEAR UP, Montana Postsecondary Educational Opportunities Council, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, the Governor's Office and the Office of Public Instruction.

"The information at this Web site gives Montana students a road map, and in so doing, empowers them to shape their future," said Kelly Chapman.



www.KnowHow2GOMontana.org



Get smart!

S STUDENT
ASSISTANCE
FOUNDATION
Caring About Your Success

About helping Montana foster youth, that is!
Support our "A Step Ahead" college prep camp!

- Sponsor a camper
- Sponsor a chaperone
- Sponsor our computer giveaway

Contact us at (406) 495-7750 for more information, or if you know a student who might benefit from this program.

www.SmartAboutCollege.org

2500 Broadway • Helena, MT 59601 • (877) COLG4ME toll free



"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive your scholarship," said Kelly Malatare, a student and a single mother of two. "I will use this money to get back and forth to school and to help pay for my tuition. This money will help me achieve my goal in my education at Salish Kootenai College."

College Goal Sunday

Help Students in Your Community!

Are you looking for ways to help students in your community? Sponsoring a scholarship – or more than one – to be awarded on College Goal Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, is a great way to make a difference close to home.

Student Assistance Foundation's goal is to award three, \$500 scholarships at each of the 17 Montana College Goal Sunday sites.

College Goal Sunday provides students and their families with one-on-one help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the key to federal financial aid and other types of financial assistance.

Over the past three years, SAF has awarded \$34,000 in scholarships at the event. Kelly Malatare, a single mother of two and a student at Salish Kootenai College, was a recipient of one of the College Goal Sunday scholarships in 2007.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive your scholarship," she said. "I will use this money to get back and forth to school and to help pay for my tuition. This money will help me achieve my goal in my education at SKC."

Where we stand:	College Goal Sunday
Fundraising Goal:	\$25,500
Collected:	\$16,500
Need:	\$9,000

To contribute, contact Libby Siebens at (406) 495-7392 or lsiebens@safmt.org.

College Goal Sunday Car Raffle Fundraiser

Get the Edge...for a Brighter Future!

Student clubs and groups in Montana are constantly searching for new ways to raise money for their various activities. Student Assistance Foundation's Montana College Goal Sunday Car Raffle is one method of doing just that, and at the same time, supporting and promoting the Montana College Goal Sunday program.

College Goal Sunday is a free event, held annually at 17 Montana locations at which students and their families can receive one-on-one assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Through the partnership with SAF, student groups are encouraged to sell raffle tickets for a brand new 2008 Ford Edge in their communities. For each \$5 ticket sold, the student group receives \$1 of the proceeds, with the rest of the money going to support Montana College Goal Sunday.

As an added incentive, the groups are eligible for monthly, \$50 prizes based on ticket sales, with the highest ticket seller in each category receiving a \$250 bonus.

Tickets will be on sale from Aug. 1, 2007 through Feb. 10, 2008. The winner will be drawn on Feb. 15, following Montana College Goal Sunday.

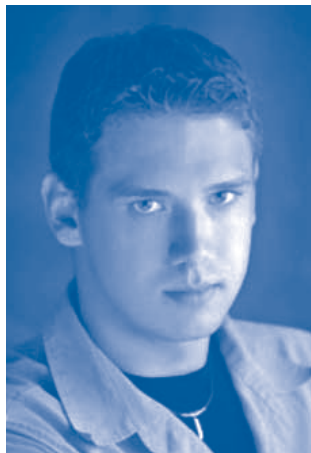


Billings Central High School band kicked off the car raffle at the Montana Fair. The group is raising money to attend pre-Olympic events in China.

To participate, contact Kris MacIntyre at (406) 495-7312 or kmacintyre@safmt.org.

Butte Foster Youth Reaches for His Dreams

It didn't take Schylar Canfield long working for a telemarketing firm to realize he wanted something different for his future. One major problem – his dreams of a better tomorrow meant he needed to figure out how to get to college today.



As a youth growing up in the Montana foster care system, Canfield didn't have a traditional support network behind him. For that reason, he shouldered the majority of the responsibility for blazing his path to postsecondary education.

Then, Canfield discovered the benefits of the Educational Training and Voucher (ETV) program.

"ETV really helped when it was available," he said. "I needed a better computer for school, my car fixed for transportation, books and other school supplies. The ETV helped cover the cost of going to school."

Today, at the age of 23, Canfield is poised to receive his degree in professional and technical communications.

"Don't be afraid! Just go for it!" Canfield advises other foster care youths about pursuing postsecondary education. "College isn't that bad and it's a great way to transition from the high school foster kid stage, to the independent adult stage."

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Student Assistance Foundation is a proud member.

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STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

Our goal is for Montana to be a state where higher education is within reach of all Montanans, no matter their economic status. We will achieve this goal when all Montanans know about and use the wide range of funding options available for college, trade school, technical school or other higher education aspirations.