



Looking back on 2020 with gratitude

It has been a year that perhaps none of us would choose to repeat and yet, as I look back, my overwhelming emotion is gratitude.

For the nearly 26 years since our grand opening on May 27, 1995, and the four years before that while the dream of A Carousel for Missoula was being realized, our Carousel community has responded with generosity and ingenuity to every request for support we could throw at it. This year was no exception. In March, we made the difficult decision to close the Carousel and Dragon Hollow to help control the spread of COVID-19. The board and staff initially thought a 10-day closure might be enough to do our part. As case counts rose, however, it was apparent our closure would go on for some time.

After some soul searching and much research, we reopened Dragon Hollow in early July, but the Carousel has remained closed and we do not yet have an anticipated reopening date. We enter 2021 in an operational limbo, but we are confident that your support will sustain us during our extended closure, and will allow us to be ready to reopen quickly when the board and the Missoula County Health Department determine it is safe to do so.

Along with no concrete reopening date, we also do not have solid information about the state of our regular events. Will it be safe to hold the Fairy Tale and Superhero Festival in late July, or Haunted Hollow around Halloween? Can we host a hybrid Garden Party in September, combining in-person guests with others attending virtually? Will Santa be able to have breakfast at the Carousel in December?

So many questions, and no definitive answers.

When we train new employees, and at all of our employee meetings throughout the year, we talk about the key words in each facet of Carousel operations. The key word for the Gift Shop, for instance, is helpful. The key word for the platform is, and always has been, safety. In prior times, that has meant making sure our riders get on and off the horses safely, staying vigilant during rides, and ensuring that guests stay safe whenever they are in the building. Since March 15, it has meant no rides at all.

Obviously, we can't tell you when we will be able to reopen, or what events we will be able to hold this year, but as we make those decisions, safety is our guiding factor.

While we wait to see what the future holds, we look back on 2020 with gratitude to all of you for all you have done for us. The remainder of this newsletter is a testimonial to you, and you, and you, and each one of you who has helped sustain us these many years.

If you do not find your name listed for some donation you have made or service you have provided, please accept my apologies, and let me know. I will be sure to include that information in a future newsletter. We want to be sure to acknowledge your support so others know of your kindness, but we also want never to forget how strongly this community supports our efforts.

Stay safe, mask up and from the bottom of our hearts,

Thank you!

Theresa Cox, Executive Director

thank
you

\$10,000

Penelope Oncken

\$5,000

Montana Ace Hardware

\$1000+

Anonymous

Missoula Textile Services

Kimberly & Mike Roth

\$500+

Randy & Theresa Cox

The Tom Beaudette Family

Daniel Kemmis & Jean Larson

Missoula Downtown Lions Club

Dale Woolhiser & Nancy Thompson

\$200+

Jim Dunlap in memory of Lois
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Jim & Janice Nugent

Carla & Mark Pawlewicz

Jim & Dee Strauss

Baskin Robbins

Robert & Becky Byrne

Richard & Alice Dailey (DH)

Renda Greene

Margie & Steve Grinnell

Barbara & Jim Jourdonnais

Chris & Paul Kilzer

Leon Harden

Montana Security &

Communications

Bill & Dori Johnston

Doosy Habbe

Maureen & Alexander Howard in
memory of Lawrence J Coan

Sandy Mitchell

Molly & Andy Nelson

Kitte Robins

Peter Stickney

Harry & Kari Watkins

Diane Welty

to our 2020 Community Powered Donors

(Grants can be found on page 8)

\$100+

Jim & Julie Foley

Missoula Community Foundation

Bjornson Jones Mungas, PLLC

First Interstate BancSystem

Charlie & Candace Jerke

Dennis & Angela Lind

Leon Harden

Geoff Badenoch

Christine Beltramo

Hope Campbell

Cats on Broadway Veterinary
Hospital

Five Valley Restoration &
Cleaning

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Burke Mellem

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Up to \$100

Painting with a Twist

Brittany Broder

Doris Lambert

Kathy & Tom Anderson

Sharon Bennett

Linda Rae Blakney

Kasey Boeve

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Mary Jane Cowdrey

MISMO Gymnastics

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Scott & Jean Whaley

Phyllis & Lou Whitsell

Fred Liberatori

Lesley Washburn

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Dolores Criswell

Jennifer Fortin

Mike & Dayl Fredrickson

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Kathy Lockridge

George Sherry

Lynda Frost

Douglas Grimm

Amy Hetzler

Lynea Saari

Julia Sears

Mary Yarrow-Hoppe

Sarah Anderson

Kelsey Cote



A Silver Celebration

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2020



We were fortunate to have two very special guests help out with our Silver Celebration.

Larry Pirnie (l) was on hand to draw the winning raffle ticket for Spot, an adult-sized rocking pony carved by the Ponykeepers and painted by Larry.

Academy award winning actor **JK Simmons (r)** concluded our program with a toast to our past and our future. We are so grateful to these gentlemen for taking time to help us celebrate!



We had to switch ponies in mid-stream, but we successfully combined two events that are normally held in-person into one virtual event. The result was a celebration of our silver anniversary that combined tasty treats and beautiful holiday greenery (for those who chose to order them), a presentation on the history of the Carousel, a pony race (to replace our Ride-a-Thon), and a silent auction. Proceeds from the event will help us keep the ponies in feed until we can reopen and let them run.

We are most grateful to our sponsors:



MIKE AND KIMBERLY ROTH



Hobby Horse Arts



WOZNAK FREEMAN JENSEN Investment Group



Betsy & Wayne Grimley Chamberlain



ROSAUERS



A MOVEABLE FEAST Chef Services for the Refined Palate



For those who donated auction items:

102.5 Mountain FM	Dax Kuehn Photography	Beau & Julie Larken
A Kreative Touch	Eclipse Bakery	MB Painting - Mark Breheim
Art Attic	Fish Window Cleaning	Missoula Country Golf Club
BE Salon	Five Valleys Restoration and Cleaning	Molly & Andy Nelson
Blackfoot Communications	Betsy & Wayne Grimley-Chamberlain	RDO Equipment
Joe Boddy	Grizzly Scholarship Association	Kathy Rogers
Canyon River Golf Club	Jeff Halvorson	Karen Somerset
Randy Cox	Hellgate High School	John Thompson
Lisa Crews	Hobby Horse Arts	Spiker Communications
Meg Cronin	Bill & Dori Johnston	The Sweet Palace
Daily's Premium Meats	Kandahar Lodge	University of Montana Athletics

For our Pony Race donors::

Kimberly Roth	Erin Kane	Tom Severson
Randy Cox	Daniel Kemmis	Shannon Size
Kathy Rogers	Noel Kulbeck	Cindy Thiel
David Torgerson	Carl Nelson	Katie Tirrell
Jane Katz	Jayne Parker	Mollie Wackler
Bob Burns-Stockman Bank	Corry Prestidge	Greg Zarewski
Becky Byrne	Virginia San Souci	Colin Bonnicksen
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Bob Hermes	Geoff Badenoch	Janet Crandall
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LMG Security	Joe Boddy	Dirk Davis
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Jeffries Court Reporting - Melody Jeffries	Olivia Grimley	Eric Huseth
Bill Johnston	Katie Guenzler	Kandy Jenkins
Hal & Sheila Stearns	Rena Hansen	Kate Joyce
Jennifer Mayo	Tricia Hightower	Meredith Justus
Jim Strauss	Adrian Hoye	Andrew Larson
Christi Beltramo	Joy Kish	Johnathon Maki
Judy & Lee Boman	Max Murphy	McKenna Miller
Madelyn Boyle	Mark Nichols	Anna-Maria Murray
Scott Burke	Mike O'Neill	Gary Nelson
Matthew Cavanaugh	Kristy Petrino	Susan Pileggi
Frank D'Angelo	Barb Rigg	Kathy Polzin
Clarene Dysart	Holly Rogers	Anthony Smith
Stu Goodner	Gary Sanks	Hope Tucker
Michael Harrington	Lorrie Schlegel	Sarah Goldsmith
Cynthia Hewitt		Deb Kees

2020 Sponsors

OF THE MONTH

Each month, the Carousel enjoys the support of that month's sponsor. Sponsors of the Month make a financial or in-kind investment in the Carousel and Dragon Hollow to help us keep the ponies fed and the dragon happy. We are grateful everyday for their generous support.



Board of Directors

aka: Those who make things happen



Rachel Parkin, President
Attorney
Milodragovich, Dale, Steinbrenner PC



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Betsy Grimley
Retired Physician



John Thompson
Artist
Owner of Hobby Horse Arts



Scott Zins
Commercial Loan Officer
First Security Bank

Welcome to
Scott Zins,
who begins his board
term in February 2021



Molly Nelson
Financial Planning Consultant
Avatax Planning Partners

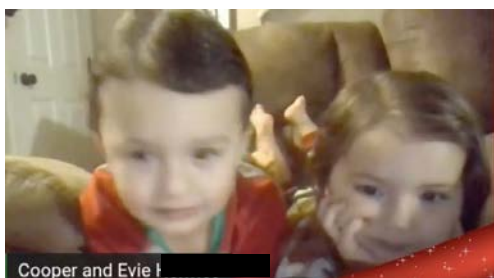
A special thank you to
Bill Johnston,
who has just completed his
term on the board.



Bill Johnston
Community Relations Officer
First Security Bank



Another favorite annual event we were not able to host in 2020 was Santa's Breakfast, which is usually held the last Saturday before Christmas. Luckily, Santa and KPAX Communications came to the rescue by devising a plan to have Santa appear and speak to children during a special FaceBook event. We are very grateful to Santa, and to all the crew at KPAX (Jill Valley, James Rafferty and Bob Hermes) for making this happen.



Cooper and Evie



Pierce and Everett

Brandy
Little Mark says Hi Santa. I would like Kinetic sand for Christmas please!

Joselyn
Hi Santa! This is Abby and Ryan! We would like a standing mixer and pogo stick.

Tonya
Hi Santa! You are awesome!). We would love legos and a horsie set for Christmas.

Molly
Kaine age 2: had been a good boy and would love some dinosaurs and trucks
Gracee age 3: has been such a good girl as well she loves frozen!! Merry Christmas Santa 🎄❤️

Erin
Tristan says he's been very good and is excited to make you cookies!!!



Amelia & Abigail



Jill Valley

Santa Claus



Tracey
Please bring peace on earth



Caleb and Grace

Gratitude times 2

You may remember these notes of gratitude from the last edition of this newsletter, but some things just can't be said too often.

When the Carousel calls, the community answers. These businesses are prime examples of that truth.



Five Valleys has thoroughly sanitized the Carousel and Dragon Hollow (twice), at no cost to us.



Black Knight has provided free nightly (and daily) security service for the Carousel since an act of vandalism early in the pandemic.



When three of our mirrors were broken, TC Glass was on the job early the next morning. They provided labor and new mirrors at a discount.



PETES provided free labor to the Carousel and many other local not-for-profits. We were able to take care of many little projects due to their generosity.

2020 GRANTS

State of Montana
COVID-Relief
\$34,000

William & Margaret Wallace Foundation
Operations
\$5000

Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation
Free Rides for the Disadvantaged
\$3750

Missoula Downtown Foundation
Business Support
\$1500

Max & Betty Swanson Foundation
General Operations
\$1000

Selma & Alvin Silverman Foundation
General Operations
\$500



Horatio needs a new home

This sweet rocking hippo has recently been returned to the Carousel by a loving owner, who has moved into a smaller space.

As much as he has enjoyed some time at 'home,' Horatio would love to have a permanent residence. If you would like to take home Horatio, call Theresa at 406-370-3922.