

CHOOSE GIFTS THAT GIVE MORE



BY NANCY BROOK

WHAT DO YOU BUY YOUR CO-WORKER? YOUR BOSS? YOUR HARD-TO-PLEASE AUNT?

This holiday season honor that hard-to-buy-for person by donating to a local charity in his or her name. Dozens of organizations could use your donation to make a difference. And while you're at it, consider asking your loved ones to donate on your behalf to a favorite cause. Here are some ways to give more right here in Billings.

\$50 and Under

ALBERTA BAIR THEATER – Every year the ABT gives away 1,600 tickets to social service agencies. Your gift of \$20 will help support one of these tickets. (406) 256-8915 or www.albertabairtheater.org.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY – Sometimes the simple things matter most. Your \$25 gift will transport a cancer patient to treatment, five round trips. (406) 256-7150 or www.cancer.org.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION – Secure two-and-a-half hours of respite care for someone with Alzheimer's Disease for only \$50. (406) 252-3053 or www.alz.org

HEAD START – Give milk moustaches to a classroom for a month for \$25. Or how about buying 10 books for a kid for only \$15? (406) 245-7233 or www.billingsheadstart.org.

HELP FOR HOMELESS PETS – Support a pet looking for a good home. \$10 provides a vaccination for rabies, Parvo or distemper. \$20 feeds a cat for month. \$30 feeds a dog for one month. Donate online at helpforhomelesspets.org or call (406) 896-1700.

MOSS MANSION HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM – Preserve Billings' history by purchasing a membership for the Billings Preservation Society. Membership supports the upkeep of the mansion and allows access to the museum for an entire year. \$40 for individual or \$60 for family memberships. (406) 256-5100 or www.mossmansion.com.

NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness – Support a parent who has a child with mental illness. For \$35, you can sponsor the educational materials for parents taking the NAMI Basics class. (406) 256-2001 or www.nami.org.

NORTHERN ROCKIES RADIATION ONCOLOGY CENTER – For \$15, give a poster that promotes the Messiah Festival and features an original watercolor from Karen Tanner called "The Meadowlark. Bird of Promise." Proceeds will be used to provide cancer patients free lodging. (406) 248-2212 or www.nrroc.org.

RIVERSTONE HEALTH FOUNDATION – Give \$10 to pay for a fluoride application for a child or a hygiene kit for a homeless person. (406) 651-6555 or www.riverstonehealth.org.

YOUNG FAMILIES EARLY HEAD START – A \$50 gift benefits a newborn with diapers and clothing; \$60 will buy a car seat for an infant or toddler. (406) 259-2007.

PARMLY BILLINGS LIBRARY FOUNDATION – Donate \$25, the typical cost of a book, DVD or CD. Our community receives \$100 annual benefit because each item is checked

out an average of four times a year. (406) 237-6149 or www.ci.billings.mt.us.

\$51 to \$100

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY – By matching children with adult mentors, the program helps youth reach their highest potential while avoiding life's pitfalls. A donation of \$80 will support a match for four weeks. (406) 248-2229 or www.bbbsync.org.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BILLINGS – Support the Wise Penny voucher program. Vouchers are presented to struggling individuals who can use them to buy gently used clothes. Even \$100 goes a long way toward outfitting a wardrobe. (406) 652-6272 or www.juniorleagueofbillings.org.

YELLOWSTONE CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES) – Provides volunteer advocates for children who have been taken away from the home because of abuse or neglect. Your gift of \$100 will help a child for a month. (406) 259-1233 or www.yellowstonecasa.org.

\$101 to \$500

BILLINGS PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION – The classroom grant program supports innovation and excellence for teachers within Billings Public Schools. Achieve the sponsorship level with a \$250 donation. (406) 245-4133 or www.billings.k12.mt.us/bpef.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS – Benefit a kid with safe after school activities. \$250 bestows a year's scholarship to the club. (406) 245-2582 or bgcyyellowstone.org.

EAGLE MOUNT – Send a child with disabilities to day camp for a week for \$50 or provide four weeks of skiing at Red Lodge Mountain for \$150. Donate online at www.eaglemount.us or call (406) 245-5422.

MONTANA CHAPTER OF MARCH OF DIMES – Premies need extra care. Give \$180 for one dose of surfactant therapy, which helps lungs in premature babies. Or give \$500 to support home oxygen therapy for a month. (406) 252-7480 or www.marchofdimes.com/montana.

NATIONAL MS SOCIETY – "Knowledge is Power" is an at home educational series designed for people newly diagnosed with MS and their families. By donating \$500, you'll empower 25 individuals with MS. (406) 252-5927 or www.msmtmontana.org.

PARENTS LETS UNITE FOR KIDS (P.L.U.K.) – Help parents who have children with disabilities. Give \$100 to support library materials educating on disabilities such as

autism, Asberger's syndrome, turrets syndrome and emotional disorders. (406) 255-0540 or www.pluk.org.

YWCA – Help women and children with a \$150 contribution. This provides two-and-a-half nights of shelter and safety for a victim of domestic violence or one month of preschool for a low-income child. (406) 252-6303 or www.ywcabillings.org.

Priceless Gifts

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION – Set up a Web page through AHA Holiday memorial system and dedicate it to someone who has survived cardiovascular disease or has passed away. Encourage friends to donate instead of buying gifts. (406) 256-3855 or www.americanheart.org.

BILLINGS CLINIC RESEARCH CENTER SCIENCE EXPO – Inquisitive minds vie for recognition and awards at the Science Expo. Support grades 1-12 by volunteering as a judge or by providing financial support. (406) 247-6461 www.billingsclinic.com/scienceexpo.


BILLINGS STUDIO THEATRE – Cultivate the arts in our community. 100 percent of gifts go toward improving the theater and productions. This can be as simple as new

costumes or as extensive as a new lighting system. Any amount is appreciated. (406) 248-1141 or www.billingsstudiotheatre.com.

FAMILY SERVICES, INC. – Gather your loved ones to Adopt-A-Family in need this holiday season. Chose the size of the family to adopt and purchase holiday gifts. (406) 259-2269 or www.famserv.com.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Gifts small and large can help fund a home for a family. Contribute \$50 for a box of nails, \$2,500 for house siding or \$3,000 for flooring. (406) 652-0960 or www.billingshabitat.org.

ST. VINCENT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION – Ronald McDonald Caremobile serves 450 children per month, with medical and dental care. The care is free to the children and a day of services costs \$1,500. Give to promote healthy children. (406) 237-3600 or www.svfoundation.org.

TUMBLEWEED RUNAWAY PROGRAM – The program supports at-risk youth through street outreach, crisis counseling, youth shelter and other services. Donate online at tumbleweedprogram.org or call (406) 259-2558. 

The gift of time



...is a gift that lasts all year long.

Imagine having more time to relax and enjoy your family over the holidays - or even better yet, all year long. At Elite Home Services, we take care of things around the house so you can take care of life's more important matters. We make it simple by providing the most thorough interior cleaning services in the Billings area, as well as:

- Laundry Care (wash & fold)
- Ironing and/or Pressing
- Garage and Sidewalk Sweeping
- Window Washing
- Run Errands... and much more!



ELITE

HOME SERVICES

We give your home the personal touch

For the gift that allows you to make the most of your time, call Elite today.