WHAT DO YELLOWSTONE DONORS SAY?

“It’s a good, strong investment and you get the double satisfaction of doing something wonderful for Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch.”

– Ron Paul

“Yellowstone to me is a star - how they handled the funds from the sale of our ranch and how it helps me get through my retirement years and then helps troubled children when I’m gone.”

– Betty Bratsky

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation is to support, promote, advance and enable charitable, religious, and educational organizations and programs whose services primarily benefit youth and adults with special needs.

The Foundation has primarily directed its support to the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch founded in 1957, which provides residential and community based care and treatment for emotionally troubled youth and K-12 education at the Yellowstone Academy.

Charitable planned gifts help Yellowstone donors and Yellowstone kids . . . and helping one another is really what we’re all about!
MEET THE YELLOWSTONE FOUNDATION TEAM

William A. (Bill) Hritsco, JD
PRESIDENT

Bill Hritsco is a Montana native and was raised on family farms in the Dillon and Deer Lodge valleys. Bill graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 1993 and practiced law in Dillon for nearly 25 years. His legal practice focused on property law and real estate transfers, agricultural and water law, wills and trusts, and assisting individuals and families with estate planning.

Bill became involved with Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch nearly 20 years ago after several court appointments as guardian ad litem for abandoned, abused, and neglected children struggling in the court system. Bill then joined the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Board of Directors where he served for eight years before transitioning to Yellowstone Foundation’s Board of Directors in 2008 where he served until 2016, with the last three years as its Chairman. He is also a member of the State Bar of Montana.

Shannon O’Donnell, CPA
VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Shannon O’Donnell joined the Foundation team in 2020. Previously, Shannon served as the Chief Financial Officer for a large conglomerate business group and ran her own accounting practice. She has served as treasurer for the non-profit Silver Run Ski Education Foundation for many years.

Shannon’s expertise and practical experience serves the Foundation as she oversees all accounting functions, the annual budget, and regular external audits. She monitors the Foundation’s endowment funds, annuity reserves, and all charitable trusts.

Shannon also serves as Office Manager for the Foundation.

James C. Soft, CFP, MA, MS
PRESIDENT EMERITUS/PLANNED GIVING SPECIALIST

James C. Soft held the Presidency at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation from 2002 through 2012. Jim continues to help donors with all forms of planned giving at the Foundation, as he has since 1972. He holds a Certified Financial Planner® designation and a Masters of Science degree (with an emphasis in estate planning) from the College of Financial Planning.

Jim is a current board member of the American Council on Gift Annuities and former director of the Montana Nonprofit Association. He is also a board member of The Charitable IRA Initiative, a 510(c)(4) organization working toward extending and enhancing charitable IRA legislation, and the principal of James C. Soft & Assoc. Consulting.

Certified Financial Planner® is a mark owned by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc.

Sara Hofer, JD
VICE PRESIDENT OF PLANNED GIVING

Sara Hofer joined the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation in 2019. She is a graduate of The George Washington University in Washington D.C. and attended the University of Wyoming where she earned her law degree. She has a history in non-profit work including time with Parents, Let’s Unite For Kids (PLUK), Make-A-Wish Montana, and the American Cancer Society. Sara and her husband own a ranch north of Billings where their three children are very active in sports, church, and the family rodeo business.

Sara brings her expertise to charitable planned giving, working closely with Jim Soft and Bill Hritsco to provide planned gift analysis and proposals to donors and their advisors.

Kristi Farver Oaks, BA
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Kristi Farver Oaks, a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, joined the Yellowstone Foundation in 2019. A northeast Montana native, Kristi was with the American Cancer Society for over 20 years, starting as a field staff in eastern Montana and then serving as the state director for eight years before finishing her time as the Managing Director for the Great West Division, overseeing income staff in a twelve state area.

As Executive Vice President, Kristi assists Yellowstone friends with both annual and major gifts in addition to networking with the larger community to match individuals, businesses, foundations, and corporations with suitable Ranch projects.

Allyson Cole, BA
VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Cole came to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation in 2019. She was born and raised in southeast Montana where her family’s ranch is still operating and is a Carroll College graduate, majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. Allyson is very involved in community volunteer work such as Dress For Success Billings, Quality of Life through the Billings Association of Realtors and the Home Builders Association.

Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch has been a familiar organization to Allyson throughout her life as both her parents have worked at the Ranch. Her passion for supporting youth in need will assist her in promoting and advancing relationships with donors and efforts to benefit the mission of YBGR.