



Big Hearts Beat

March 2016

Big Hearts under the Big Sky eNewsletter



2016 Banquet & Auction

Fast Facts

Big Hearts under the Big Sky was created by the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association in 2008

Big Hearts has served 54 families/groups totaling 360 people including:

- à 22 members of our military
- à 30 Youth with a life-threatening illness
- à 150 Women recovering from breast cancer

Adversity, Compassion, and Hunting - Another Big Hearts Story

We all know someone or some family that has been affected by cancer. This is a tragically beautiful story of a wonderful young man who along with his father is battling this terrible disease together. His father, Freddie Sr. is also battling cancer. They are going through this journey together. This is their story of love and faith and service to others. They are part of the Big Hearts under the Big Sky family.

Freddie was nominated for a Big Hearts trip experience by a case worker from the hospital where Freddie receives his



Freddie spreading a little joy!
(Picture from Freddie's

medical treatments. In her nomination she shared, "Freddie is a

Trip recipients and their family find the healing power that exists in the wilds of Montana

Only fully licensed, professional outfitters deliver our Big Hearts trips

Big Hearts under the Big Sky
5 Microwave Hill Road, Suite 1
Montana City, Montana 59634
mogaoffice@mt.net

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Board of Directors

Mike Garcia, Chairman

Chuck Rein, Vice-Chairman

Wagner Harmon, MOGA Pres.
Elect

Sherry Cargill, Treasurer

Big Hearts Staff

Mac Minard, Executive Director

Emmie Kleppelid, Executive
Assistant

Give the gift of time!

If you would like to join the Big Hearts movement as a volunteer, contact the office at 406-449-3578 or email mogaoffice@mt.net

Facebook page)

wonderful
young man

who voluntarily accompanies me on counseling rounds visiting with other young patients when they are first admitted to the hospital. Freddie's calming manner helps them understand what the treatments are like and why they are being done." His trip to Montana provided an opportunity for him and his father, Freddie Sr., to share time together, make memories and find the healing



Freddie and his Dad on a
Big Hearts trip

power we know exists in the wilds of Montana. A dream trip that neither he, nor his father, would otherwise get to experience.

Freddie's Story

Freddie, a 16 year-old young man from Mississippi, is battling cancer for the second time. His cancer relapsed and he had to undergo treatment that will save his life...again. A diagnosis of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia came on February 17th 2013 for Freddie Jr., who was then treated at the Children's Cancer Clinic at Batson Children's Hospital in Mississippi.



Freddie and Mac
enjoying a laugh

He made it through chemotherapy treatments all the way to remission.

[Read full article](#)



2016 Banquet Volunteers



Dave Tobel sharing a word with Donna Johnson

May 3, 2016 Give Local-Helena

Last year during Big Hearts' participation in Give Local Helena - a 24-hour online giving event - you pushed Big Hearts to the top of the leaderboard for most of the day!! At the end of the 24 hour period, Big Hearts received recognition for top donors and top dollars raised. One dedicated Big Hearts donor battled another non-profit donor, until midnight to secure Big Heart's top donor spot. It was so much fun to check the leaderboard and see Big Hearts leading the way!! Together, we can do it again this year!! Join us on May 3rd, 2016, as we raise awareness and \$s for a cause we all believe in.

Celebrating our Success and Rededicating Ourselves to the Future

Celebrating our success and rededicating ourselves to the future was the theme of the 2016 Big Hearts under the Big Sky Banquet and Auction.

Banquet goers enjoyed a Meet and Greet cocktail hour where they visited with past trip recipients and gained insight into numerous experiences from trip board . Additionally, attendees perused a great assemblage of auction items. The enthusiasm was infectious and carried into the banquet hall and the dining experience.



One of our youngest supporters

Following the keynote by our own Mac Minard, Executive Director for MOGA and the Big Hearts program, the auction kicked off. Items ranging from hunting and fishing trips to firearms and hand hone knives all the way to the annual hand sewn quilt went quickly to eager bidders. The evening capped off with our popular "Stand up for Big Hearts" which provided everyone the opportunity to be a part of Big Hearts.

By all accounts we enjoyed the most successful event in our 8 year history. Thanks to the help from many volunteers during the build up to the event and then the night of the event, things ran smoothly. Thanks go particularly to the Helena



women's group Beta Eta, the Women's Carroll College Soccer team, a local dedicated Big Hearts volunteer group and



A Big Hearts trip experience extends far beyond the hunt or catch, spirits are healed, capabilities and confidence expand, a sense of purpose and future rediscovered and along the way families and faith are restored.

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Capital High Students Show Compassion through Creativity

On the front page of the *Helena Independent Record*, on January 18, 2016 is an article about the young men from Capital High school, led by a world-class educator, Jim Weber, who dedicated last semesters' work to the Big Hearts program. They have built three truckloads of rustic furniture, made from reclaimed hardwood pallets, and donated these items for auction on behalf of MOGA's Big Hearts

Carroll College soccer girls
lend a helping hand

students from
Capital High
School for the

time and talent they all brought forward on behalf of the Big Hearts program. Many hands do make light work.

Thanks also to our event sponsors; Helena Motors, Toyota, Bloomquist Law Firm, Montana Radio, and Capital Sports and Western, whose efforts and support made every dollar raised at the event go to the Big Hearts program in support of those we serve.

The generosity of the sellout crowd shattered any previous records and at this level we are set to move into the year with sufficient resources to fund 2016 Big Hearts trip experiences and still have sufficient

support for the program. The Big Hearts program is not about any one entity. It represents a community based opportunity to give on behalf of others.

Thank you to those who have supported the Big Hearts program over the

years. Together you truly are ***"Making a Difference One Family at a Time!"***



Capital High students gave of their time and talents

We are delighted to report that the Banquet will remain in Helena for the next three years. Mark your calendar now and please plan to join us for a terrific evening of celebration and service.

Big Hearts Banquet Dates

January 14, 2017	Helena
January 13, 2018	Helena
January 12, 2019	Helena

Thanks again for supporting Big Hearts!!



program. In the article, the author recognizes the school, the deed of these remarkable young men, the work of Montana Outfitters and Guides Association and the Big Hearts Banquet and Auction.

"The greatest thing you can give somebody is your time," Mac Minard, executive director of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, told a class of sophomore woodworking students at Capital High Thursday.

[View Photos and full article here](#)

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