



MAY 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Community Coffee Day**, Montana Coffee Traders Kalispell, June 18, 7am-6pm.
- **Community Pizza Night**, McKenzie River Pizza, Kalispell North, September 13th, 1-10 pm.
- **Friends of the Library Book Sale**, Kalispell Center Mall, Friday, Sept 21-Sunday, Sept 23.

DEAR DONORS,

In April I attended the Montana Library Association Conference in Bozeman, where our incredible librarians gave presentations on everything from Maker Culture to Playwork. They were the most boundary-pushing presentations at the conference, and I overheard more than one MAJOR Montana library staffer talking with awe about ImagineIF. I also overheard one librarian say to another "We can't do that, we don't have that kind of money." That's when it hit me. *They think we're outstanding because we're loaded!*

The truth is that ImagineIF Libraries are outstanding because of the vision and daring of our library staff. When it comes to funding, we are actually funded well *below* both state and national averages. That's where donors like you swoop in to save the day, funding programs that make us the envy of every library in the state. I'm so proud of ImagineIF, of donors like you who support them, and of what we accomplish together.

Many thanks,
Charlotte Housel
Executive Director, ImagineIF Library Foundation

WHAT YOU'VE FUNDED LATELY



MAKING MONTANA

As a result of participating in the Manufacturing and Technology Expo, I can tell students about skills that are important for success in manufacturing.



When you give to ImagineIF, you may not imagine that you're contributing to long-term economic success in the Flathead Valley. But that's exactly what donor dollars did this spring at the two-day Making Montana festival, Feb 23-24th, where the next generation of innovators connected with makers and manufacturers, helping to create a thriving local economy far into the future.

In its second year, **Making Montana built on last year's success with a 45% increase in attendance.** Making Montana is a group effort. FVCC, ImagineIF Libraries, School District 5, Montana West Economic Development, the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and Montana Manufacturing Extension Center joined forces to create a network of manufacturers, learning organizations and economic development resources.

26 Manufacturers and 35 Makers presented, including SmartLam, Weyerhaeuser, Learned Reality and Sweet Peaks Ice Cream. Presenters were excited about cultivating local talent to fill local jobs. One local manufacturer said the best part was "sharing manufacturing and engineering career options with the next generation of students."

But the attendees having the most fun were clearly the **1,572 students** who attended. **"The world can do so many amazing things, and it's all here!"** one exclaimed. That's exactly the sort of revelation that Making Montana is designed to spark.



4/5 of manufacturers surveyed said that, through participation in Making Montana, they made a new connection that has the potential to enhance their business.

"There are no limits to what you can do here" -Student

WHAT YOU'RE FUNDING NEXT

SUMMER EXPERIENCE



Thousands of Flathead Valley kids will have a place to keep their science, literacy and problem-solving skills sharp all summer long.

Thanks to individual donor support and a generous grant from local employer **Applied Materials**, this year's free summer camp is on track to be the most brain-busting, mess-making, eye-opening program to date.

What does it take to provide free, hands on, STEAM-oriented learning for more than 3,400 students? Not too much, if you're as creative as ImagineIF. **This year, \$12,500 donor dollars will be spent, averaging just \$3.67 per student.** That's quite a bargain, when you consider that **preventing summer learning loss decreases the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth and improves high school graduation rates.** Talk about a return on investment!

Thanks to donors like you, last year's Summer Experience was full of stimulating programs. Students created closed circuits using conductive paint, played in a virtual watershed sandbox, built sundials, and learned special effects film techniques. ImagineIF's Youth Services Librarian, Martha Furman, has dozens of innovative activities queued up for 2018's program. Sign up for ImagineIF Library's newsletter to keep informed about all their upcoming programs.



PROFILES IN GENEROSITY



Diane and Bill Yarus run **Airworks**, a local heating a cooling business. They've done an incredible amount for ImagineIF over the years. Diane served 5 years on the Foundation Board and Airworks sponsored our donor match for last year's Flathead Gives fund drive.

We had an illuminating chat with her about why she's been such a steadfast supporter over the years.

Why is the library important to you, personally?

Diane: Libraries offer lifelong learning opportunities for absolutely everyone, visitors to our community as well. They are like a farmers market for the mind. There is something everyone can feast on from car repair manuals to the latest book release. We started our business when our children were little. I spent hours at the library researching how to write a business plan while my kiddos played in the children's area. With three boys under the age of 4, I spent many a cold icy winter day at the library. I got to see and talk with other adults. It saved my sanity! It was and still is a remarkable resource.

Why do you and your business, Airworks, invest in our community?

Diane: This is the community where our children grew -up and where we work and play. We feel we have a responsibility to help to make sure it is a safe and vibrant place for everyone, our kids included. Volunteering in our community has been not only rewarding for us personally but we knew our children were learning by our example.

What advice do you have for people who are considering supporting or getting involved with the ImagineIF Library Foundation?

Diane: This is an exciting time for our libraries. Technologies are changing, our community is growing, and libraries are evolving to meet new expectations. It is one of the only places that can impact everyone you know. It is an outstanding institution that anyone would be proud to be a part of.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

[ImagineIF Librarian Megan Glidden](#)
[Has an Eye for Innovation](#)
-The Daily Interlake

We have a new website!
www.imagineiflibraryfoudnation.org