



Welcome to Rosebud and Treasure Counties



Rosebud and Treasure Counties represent a diverse and expansive landscape as well as population. Covering over 6,000 square miles, the two counties' vastness includes three incorporated cities, Forsyth, Colstrip and Hysham, as well as several additional communities. The county also borders the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The most northern portions of both counties provide wide open prairies, which are met by the Yellowstone River. This great resource runs through both counties. The southern portion of both counties offers more rugged, pine-covered hills. Farming and ranching, as well as energy development and railroads make up the majority of the diverse economic drivers in the two counties.

The MSU Extension office for Rosebud-Treasure Counties is in large part funded by the taxpayers of Rosebud and Treasure Counties. Your local support of MSU Extension services and your financial support is greatly appreciated.

Turning Generosity into Real Impact

In 2007, Forsyth embarked on Horizons, a state-wide community development effort led by MSU Extension. The program successfully involved over 20% of the local community. By far the most impactful outcome of that effort was the development of a local community foundation.

As luck would have it, just as the community was mobilizing around Horizons, the Montana Community Foundation came knocking, searching for an organization to help create a local community foundation, thanks to a significant donation. Swede Schlesinger, a deceased Rosebud County rancher, left his estate to his family in Nebraska. Familiar with the Nebraska Community Foundation, Swede's family provided the initial investment to create the fund. The local MSU Extension office took up the effort to ensure the creation of a permanent endowment for a local foundation.

Almost a decade has passed since the creation of what is now the Community Foundation of Northern Rosebud County. Since then, the Foundation has grown its endowment to nearly \$500,000. More importantly, it's reached the



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Community & Family Health and Wellness Education

incredible milestone of investing \$100,000 back into the communities.

The ripple of impact generated from the endowment can be felt far and wide. The funds are supporting projects that are strengthening local youth leadership, keeping our community members safe, helping feed families in need and so much more. One of the most significant, long-term transformations has taken place in the Rosebud community. Starting with one of the inaugural grants of \$500 in 2008, the community has continued to utilize the Foundation's support to help transform a run-down vacant lot into a community park with a covered pavilion and grassy area. The most recent project is renovating the adjacent building into a community center, which the community now utilizes for hosting gatherings, like the July 3 celebration that grows each year. An invested community member had this to offer, "It's our community center, it's our only place we have. If it wasn't for the Community Foundation, we would not have this. It's beyond ripples (referring to impact within community), its waves. Rosebud is a different place today than it was 10 years ago because of the Community Foundation."

The positive impact felt by the community foundation is evident throughout the area. However, what may be lesser known is the extremely strong link to MSU Extension, noted by local Extension agent Jennifer Anderson, "during my time here, Extension has had the

pleasure of being involved in many wonderful projects, but most have come and gone, and over time are long forgotten. However, the development of the Community Foundation is much different, because it's a permanent endowment. It will be an asset to Northern Rosebud County forever. If Extension had not taken the lead to secure the Schlesinger funds, the money would have left the area for good. I'm so proud to say, in this effort, we have created a legacy for generations to come."

Community Market Grows Community

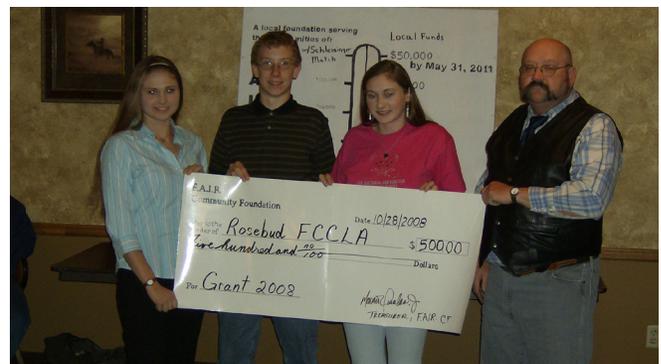
MSU Extension in Rosebud-Treasure County rang the bell on the first Forsyth Community Market the evening of July 13, 2017. A community market is both a farmer's market and a crafter's market combined.

Local vendors showcased their goods to sell, as well as promoted their businesses, organizations and programs.



Come rain or shine, seven Community Markets were held at a Marcyes Park in Forsyth, July through September. Vendors traveled to the Community Market from Forsyth, Colstrip, Hysham and Miles City. Garden vegetables of all kinds were sold at the market along with watermelons, apples and other fresh fruits. Baked goods including breads, scones,

One of the first grant recipients in 2008, the Rosebud Community has partnered with CFNRC to transform an empty lot into a community park.





Photos and design by Melissa Ashley



cookies and dog treats sold out nearly every market. A local honey producer brought fresh, raw honey to the market and was excited to share his wisdom as a beekeeper, or apiarist, as well as the process of producing high-quality honey in Montana.

The youngest vendor that participated in the Forsyth Community Market was seven years old. He sold his favorite oatmeal raisin cookies and melted bead crafts alongside his 16-year-old sister who sold a variety of homemade dog treats. The Forsyth FFA chapter attended two markets selling baked goods to raise funds to donate to the Lodgepole Fire. The chapter was able to donate more than \$600 from their sales at the Forsyth Community Market. Another high school student sold pumpkins for carving to raise funds to help purchase costumes and materials for her Drama Club.

The desire to buy local is a fast-growing trend that allows communities to support their own local economy and programs. The Forsyth Community Market provided such a venue for Rosebud County, as well as increased the community's knowledge of local agriculture and inspired business-minded individuals.

Montana Foster Child Backpack Project

The Montana 4-H Rec Lab event aims to provide youth and adults an opportunity to enhance their leadership, communication and team-building skills in an action-packed and interactive setting. The 2017 Montana 4-H Rec Lab was scheduled to be hosted in Miles City. When the District 8 4-H planning meeting concluded, MSU Extension in Rosebud-Treasure Counties was tasked with organizing the Community Service Project for the upcoming event.

MSU Extension Rosebud-Treasure agents, as well as Rosebud-Treasure 4-H Ambassadors, began planning the Foster Child Backpack Project. Sometimes children are placed in foster care unexpectedly, with little or no time for planning or packing. To help ease this transition for children in Eastern Montana, blankets would be tied and backpacks would be filled with items necessary and helpful for newly placed foster children. The Miles City Child & Family Services (CFS) office was excited to partner with Montana 4-H and distribute the backpacks to foster children in need. The Backpack Project received \$1500 in grants and donations from the Montana 4-H Foundation, MCI2 and a local women's group. With these funds, backpacks and fleece were purchased, as well as necessary toiletries to ensure each backpack included basic personal care items.

4-H youth and adult volunteers attending the 2017 4-H Rec Lab were asked to bring suggested



Photos taken at Rec Lab during the Community Service Session

donation items to fill the backpacks. At check-in, attendees dropped off their donations and each item was sorted and grouped by age and gender by Rosebud-Treasure 4-H Ambassadors. Over 50 youth and adults participated in the four blanket tying workshops, instructed by MSU Extension Rosebud-Treasure agent Melissa Ashley, where everyone learned four ways to tie a fleece blanket.

During the community service session, all donated items were placed on tables where pairs of 4-H youth were given an age and gender and “shopped” to fill their backpacks for their designated foster child. Donated items included toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers, socks, stuffed animals, books, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, playing cards, toys and much more. Placed in each backpack was a card that read “Made just for YOU! by Montana 4-H members” and included the 4-H Grows Here logo. All of the donated goods were loaded into vehicles headed for Miles City CFS, along with countless extra donation items to use where they see fit.

More than 170 youth and adult 4-H volunteers participated in the Foster Child Backpack Project. A total of 94 backpacks were filled and 65 blankets tied for Montana foster children in need. Miles City CFS distributed backpacks to

offices across eastern Montana and broadened the estimated reach of the project. Due to the outstanding support of the project’s sponsors and supporters, Montana 4-H volunteers were able to show compassion and impact the lives of surrounding youth through their involvement in the Foster Child Backpack Project.

From Seeds, To Service

In 2015, with the help of two enthusiastic Forsyth Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members, MSU Extension Rosebud-Treasure Counties began planning to revive the Forsyth Community Garden program. Fast forward to 2017, during only its second year, the Forsyth Community Garden has seen many new faces walk through its gates and reached hundreds of community members of all ages. Beginning as an unused grassy lot, the community garden has grown into a hub for many community-based projects.

MSU Extension was awarded a special project grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Rosebud County to build raised beds. A design was penciled out and materials gathered and Forsyth High School Vo-Ag students got to work. Mistakes were made, boards were measured

once and cut twice, which made the teachable moments all the better. Students completed three 12' x 4' raised beds and plan to complete four more in 2018. The addition of the raised beds will help to accommodate an even wider range of garden enthusiasts in the Forsyth Community Garden.

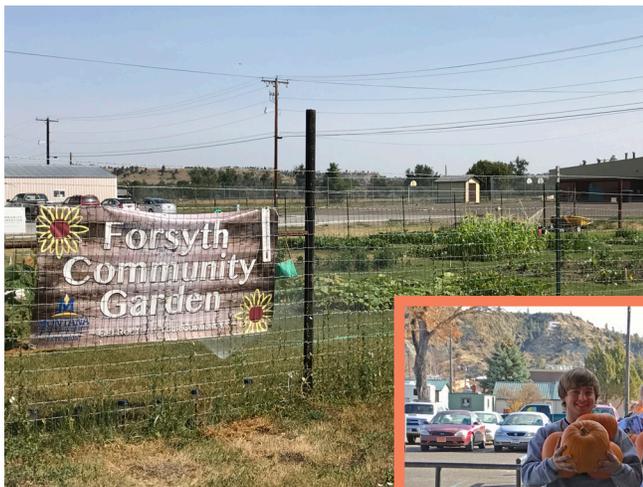
The Community Garden was also visited by the Forsyth Elementary School third grade class where students painted flower pots, learned about annual and perennial plants, soil and gardening. While in the garden, each student planted flowers in their pots as well as flower seeds in the community garden flowerbed to attract pollinators. The third-grade class delivered their flower pots along with a poem to Rosebud County employees for a May Day celebration.

Thirty-five pumpkins were harvested from the community garden and delivered to the Forsyth High School Family & Consumer Science classroom. Students learned how to bake, process and preserve the fresh pumpkin. These ambitious students processed 176 cups of pumpkin puree, making a total of 91 pumpkin pies! This was enough effort to supply the Forsyth Samaritan's

Pantry Thanksgiving Dinner box donation with 48 pies, pantry volunteers with 13 pies and Forsyth High School faculty and staff with 30 pies. Ninety-one families ate pies at Thanksgiving dinner that were grown, baked and donated by our community, for our community.

Community gardeners, Rosebud County employees and County Commissioner Bob Lee gathered for a BBQ to celebrate the gardeners' year of hard work. The meal highlighted dishes made from produce grown in the community garden. Through the good works of the Forsyth Community Garden, MSU Extension was able to bring individuals together that share a common interest in community development and enhancement, growing and sharing locally-produced food as well as helping others in need.

Who would have thought that a simple garden could have turned such small seeds into such large acts of service?



LEFT TO RIGHT: Garden view; students walking pumpkins in (photos by Melissa Ashley); Students processing pumpkin. (photo by Kim Knoche)

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