Your Legacy
Giving Back to the Methow Valley

Methow Valley Fund
You love this corner of the world: its natural beauty, its passionate citizens, its endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, and its lively artistic and cultural offerings. You love the Methow Valley, and you want to ensure that it retains all its vibrancy for generations to come. If this describes you, making a legacy gift to benefit the Methow Valley Fund or the Methow Valley Fund Endowment may be right for you.

A legacy gift from your will or estate plan can provide significant financial resources for the Methow Valley beyond your lifetime. You can choose to donate to the Methow Valley Fund for immediate impact or leave an endowed gift to the Methow Valley Endowment Fund that will provide annual support to local charities for generations to come.
The Methow Valley Fund (MVF) is a philanthropic fund managed by the Community Foundation of NCW and supported by local residents who care about the Methow Valley and its future. The MVF provides annual grant funding to local nonprofits through a competitive grant program. Since its inception in 2007, the fund has distributed over $1M to diverse nonprofits throughout the valley, all vetted by the Methow Valley Fund Advisors, a dedicated group of local residents who volunteer their time to ensure that grants are awarded to urgent and impactful causes throughout the valley.

As gifts are added to the fund, the amount available to disburse grows and provides continual, permanent financial resources that exclusively benefit the Methow Valley.
Kay Arneil had an adventurous life, living and traveling throughout the world. She always loved and returned to her home in Wenatchee, where she and her husband Jim became generous contributors to many community causes throughout the North Central Washington region. When visiting with Kay, she would often recount one of her fondest memories: the summer before returning to college when she lived and worked in Twisp at the Wagner Mill. It was no surprise that Kay made the first endowment gift to establish the Methow Valley Endowment Fund, ensuring that the place that holds such special memories for her will forever have resources to benefit the people, preserve the places, and support a bright, sustainable future for the Methow Valley.
In 2020, the Methow Valley Fund received a bequest from Ken Westman, a long-time Methow Valley resident who cared deeply about providing charitable resources to benefit the valley and its citizens. Throughout his lifetime, Ken was an active participant with many local organizations that served to enhance the quality of life in the Methow Valley. In addition to financial support, Ken devoted much of his time to serving on committees, volunteering on boards, and serving in leadership positions. His lifetime of service and legacy in the community is legendary.

Ken’s $1.7M bequest doubled the grant making capability of the Methow Valley Fund and will ensure that this fund plays a significant role in protecting and enhancing the valley for generations to come.
A FLEXIBLE GIFT

Mike Real, a beloved Methow Valley Resident who volunteered for the Music Festival, Methow Trails, Methow Recycles and Twisp Airport included the Methow Valley Fund in his estate plan.

Jane Gilbertson, Mike’s spouse, explains his decision: “Mike supported the nonprofits of the Methow with his labor and his dollars. When his cancer advanced, he updated his estate plan to continue that support. He was uniquely familiar with the work of the Community Foundation and specifically the Methow Valley Fund. He knew firsthand where the dollars went. It was important to him to ensure the Methow Valley Fund would use his dollars into the future for the community he considered his home and his family.”
If you have a will or estate plan in place already, simply ask your attorney to update it with a charitable bequest to the Community Foundation of NCW to benefit the Methow Valley Fund or the Methow Valley Endowment Fund. You may also choose to leave a legacy to specific nonprofits of your choice or open a fund in your name with the beneficiaries/areas of interest (environment, education, arts, history, etc.) you wish to support beyond your lifetime.

If you need help creating a will, we have curated a list of Attorneys and Professional Advisors who are committed to assisting clients with charitable goals. We can also provide you with bequest language if you’re doing your will on your own. We have many resources to help you leave a charitable legacy that is meaningful to you!
The Methow Valley Fund supports charitable causes throughout the Methow Valley through an annual grant program that funds nonprofits addressing community needs.

The Community Foundation of NCW is a tax-exempt philanthropic organization that helps individuals, families, businesses, and agencies support charitable causes that benefit Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties.

Your investment through the Foundation not only supports the charities you care about, it also helps to build a permanent endowment for our region to enhance our future, preserve our past, and improve quality of life for all - forever.