



JULY Newsletter

Connect, Educate, and Inspire



Make plans to join AFP Montana in Billings October 22-23 for our Annual Education Summit!



This year's theme, "**Pathways in Planned Giving: From Simple Gifts to Complex Strategies**," will guide participants through the many ways donors can create meaningful philanthropic impact, from bequests and beneficiary designations to charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, retained life estates, and other advanced gift planning techniques.

Why Attend?

- **Learn from Experienced Practitioners** - Gain practical insights and real-world strategies from experts in fundraising, financial planning, law, and gift planning.
- **Expand Your Professional Network** - Connect with fundraising professionals and nonprofit leaders from across Montana while sharing ideas and building valuable relationships.
- **Earn CFRE Continuing Education Credit** - Advance your professional development and earn CFRE continuing education credit through Summit sessions. *CFRE continuing education credit is pending review and approval.*
- **Something for Every Fundraiser** - Whether you work in annual giving, major gifts, donor relations, or leadership, you'll gain practical tools and confidence to recognize and advance planned giving opportunities.

Mark your calendar now and join colleagues from across Montana for two days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration in Billings this October.

**AFP Montana Education Summit
October 22-23, 2026
First Interstate Bank Operations Center
Billings, Montana**

Be the Reason Someone's Career Takes Off!

Imagine this: A passionate, talented fundraiser - someone who genuinely wants to change the world - is sitting on the sidelines, not because they lack drive or talent, but simply because they lack access. That's where YOU come in.

When you give to the AFP Foundation's Be The Cause Campaign, you're not just writing a check - you're opening a door.

Every dollar you contribute funds scholarships that put game-changing education, electrifying networking opportunities, and powerful leadership development within reach for fundraisers who need it most — young professionals finding their footing, diverse voices ready to lead, and passionate changemakers hungry to grow.

Here's the beautiful thing about investing in fundraisers: **the ripple effect is enormous.** A stronger, more skilled fundraiser raises more money. More money means more missions funded. More missions funded means more lives changed. Your gift doesn't just help one person - it echoes across entire communities.

The numbers speak for themselves:

- Hundreds of scholarships awarded every year
- AFP members *and* non-members welcomed
- A profession made stronger, more diverse, and more impactful with every gift

The philanthropic sector needs brilliant, well-equipped fundraisers now more than ever. And the AFP Foundation is on a mission to make sure no one gets left behind because of financial barriers.

So here's our ask: Be the cause behind someone's breakthrough moment. Be the reason a young professional steps onto the conference floor with confidence. Be the force that diversifies and strengthens our sector for generations to come.

Give today. Because the cause doesn't wait - and neither should opportunity. 🌟



Thanks to the Chamberlain Scholarship through AFP, which covered my registration and provided a travel stipend, I had the opportunity to attend AFP ICON and spend several days focused entirely on fundraising education.

It was a rare chance to step away from the daily nonprofit circus and sharpen a specific skill set. I returned home with new ideas, tired feet, and —after three days of fresh seafood—enough fish to last me until at least next conference season. More importantly, I came back energized and incredibly grateful to AFP and AFP Montana for investing in me and the work we do at the West Yellowstone Foundation."

The AFP Foundation for Philanthropy - fueling the fundraisers who fuel the world.

BE  CAUSE
Empower. Strengthen. Transform.

Make your gift today



INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE Chamberlain Scholarship Now Open

Chamberlain Scholarship Applications Open July 1

Applications for the **2027 Chamberlain Scholarship** are now being accepted!

Offered in partnership with AFP Global, this scholarship helps an emerging fundraising professional attend the **AFP International Conference on Fundraising - ICON** (April 11–13, 2027, in Baltimore, Maryland). The recipient will receive complimentary conference registration from AFP Global (a value of over \$1,200), plus \$500 from AFP Montana to help cover travel expenses.

The scholarship recognizes individuals who have demonstrated service to AFP Montana and the philanthropic sector while showing strong leadership potential. Applicants must not have previously attended the AFP International Conference on Fundraising.

To apply, submit a completed application, a one-page narrative explaining why you should receive the scholarship and how your organization will benefit, along with information about your service to philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. The winning recipient will be announced at the AFP Montana Annual Meeting & Educational Summit in Billings, October 22–23.

Invest in your future and take your fundraising career to the next level.
Apply today!

Learn More & Apply



Your Opinion Matters ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Help us serve you better — share your feedback today!

In the coming days, all members and non-members alike will receive a short **Chapter Engagement Survey**. This survey is an important part of how we plan for the future - and we need your voice in the process.

Your feedback will help guide our planning for 2027, including programming, professional development opportunities, member engagement, and the overall

direction of the chapter. We want to ensure we are offering meaningful value that reflects the needs and interests of our broader community.

The survey is brief and should take **no more than 5 minutes to complete**, but the insights we gain will have a lasting impact.

As a thank you for your time, **every completed survey submitted by July 31 will be entered to receive complimentary registration to our Annual Education Summit on October 22–23 - a value of \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members.**

Please be on the lookout for the survey in your inbox and take a few minutes to complete it when it arrives. Your participation truly makes a difference in shaping the future of our chapter.

Thank you for being part of our community and helping us plan ahead.

Faces of AFP Montana

Getting to know the people strengthening philanthropy across Montana

Member Spotlight is a new feature highlighting members of the AFP Montana community. Each month, we'll introduce a member so readers can learn more about the people behind the important work happening in nonprofits across Big Sky Country.

These conversations celebrate the diverse experiences of our members while showcasing how connection, learning, and collaboration through AFP support their work in strengthening philanthropy across Montana.



Name:	April Carl
Organization:	Linfield University
Title/Role:	Director of Development
Years in the Profession:	20+ Years
AFP Member Since:	Off and on since 2003

Note: April currently resides in Oregon but is an AFP Montana member and anticipates relocating to Montana in the near future.

Tell us about the organization you represent. What mission drives your work?

I currently serve as Director of Development at Linfield University in Oregon. Throughout my career in higher education, human services, public health, and community development, I've been driven by a common purpose: connecting generous people with opportunities to create meaningful change in the lives of others.

How did you first find your way into the nonprofit or fundraising profession?

Like many fundraisers, I didn't set out to become one. My career began with a desire to serve children, families, and communities. Along the way, I discovered that fundraising combines relationship-building, service, and strategy in a way that helps both organizations and donors make a lasting impact.

What keeps you passionate about this work after all these years?

Fundraising is the culmination of my professional experiences, education, and personal values. Over time, I developed a particular passion for planned giving and helping individuals create meaningful legacies. There is something incredibly rewarding about helping donors align their values with their philanthropy and create impact that will benefit future generations.

What inspired you to join AFP, and what do you value most about being part of the chapter?

AFP has been one of the few constants throughout my career. Having often lived and worked in rural communities, I have always viewed AFP as my built-in professional network. It has provided education, ethical guidance, camaraderie, and connections with colleagues who understand both the challenges and rewards of this profession.

As I build relationships within Montana's nonprofit community, I look forward to learning from fellow AFP members and sharing experiences that strengthen our collective work.

Is there a fundraising success or meaningful moment in your career that stands out?

One of the most meaningful projects of my career was helping bring a fixed-route public transit system to Paris, Texas. Through public-private partnerships, community collaboration, and successful fundraising efforts, we launched a service that provided more than 3,000 rides in its first month of operation.

What stands out most is not the dollars raised, but the lives changed. The project created access to jobs, healthcare, education, and essential services for people who previously faced significant transportation barriers. It remains a powerful example of what can happen when a community comes together around a shared vision.

What advice would you offer someone just beginning a career in fundraising?

Focus on relationships, not transactions. Listen more than you speak, stay curious about people's stories, and remember that fundraising is ultimately about helping others achieve the impact they want to make in the world.

Also, never stop learning. After more than 20 years in the profession, I continue to seek opportunities to grow and deepen my expertise, including pursuing a planned giving certification program.

What you're not working, what do you enjoy doing, or what's something people might be surprised to learn about you?

Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, spending time outdoors, painting, and making memories with family and friends. Whether exploring a small town, discovering a new favorite restaurant, or experiencing different cultures through travel, I love learning what makes people and places unique. One of my greatest joys is watching my three daughters grow into caring, accomplished women who are making their own positive impact in the world.

Member Benefit Spotlight

Affinity Groups

Are you interested in having thoughtful conversations with like-minded fundraising professionals about various fundraising topics? Consider joining one of our affinity groups listed below!

Affinity Group Communities allow you to connect more deeply with fellow fundraisers from similar backgrounds, communities, and causes served—creating space for meaningful, relevant conversations, shared experiences, and valuable peer support.

Current Affinity Groups:

African-American/Black	Emerging Leaders	LGBTQ+
Animal Welfare	Environmental	Muslim
Arts & Culture	Faith-Based	Public Radio & TV
Asian/Pacific Islander	Food Banks	Rural
Association Foundations	Francophone	Small Nonprofit
Consulting	Health	South Asian
Development Operations	International Fundraising	Special Events
Disability	Jewish	Working Parents & Caregivers
Education	Latinx	Zoos & Aquariums

Explore AFP's Affinity Groups

Explore Board & Committee Opportunities with AFP-MT

Serving on the AFP-MT Board is rewarding, and a lot of fun, too! As a volunteer-led organization, AFP Montana thrives on the energy, ideas, and engagement of its members. Whether you're interested in joining the Board of Directors or getting involved on a committee, there are many ways to contribute, connect, and make an impact.

In true Montana fashion, we believe in pulling up an extra chair - membership scholarships may be available for those looking to get more engaged.

If you're curious about how to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Send us an email at afpmontana@gmail.com anytime, or if you're ready, submit your application today!

AFP Montana Leadership Opportunities



Some of the links below may require active AFP membership and login to AFP Global.

- 7/1/26 [Working Parents & Caregivers Affinity Group Meeting](#)
- 7/6/26 [Emerging Leaders Affinity Group Meeting](#)
- 7/6/26 [AFP Deep Dive: The AI Advancement Lab \(4-day series\)](#)
- 7/6/26 [AFP Webinar - Join the Conversation: Considerations for Platforms Enabling Charitable Donations](#)
- 7/7/26 [AFP Deep Dive: Fundamentals of Fundraising Virtual Course \(4-day series\)](#)
- 7/8/26 [AFP Webinar - Sustainable Fundraising 2.0: Resilience in an Uncertain 'Everything'](#)
- 7/15/26 [Sponsored Webinar - Nonprofit Grant Funding in 2026: Trends, Priorities and Smarter Ways to Compete](#)
- 7/15/26 [Consulting Affinity Group Meeting](#)
- 7/16/26 [Sponsored Webinar - Monthly Donors, Your Nonprofit's Secret Weapon in Uncertain Times](#)
- 7/21/26 [AFP Webinar - From Momentum to Millions: Engaging Stakeholders to Maximize Your Day of Giving](#)

7/23/26

[AFP Membership Benefits Refresher Webinar](#) (member login required)

7/28/26

[AFP Deep Dive - Donor Retention: A Self-Assessment Workshop \(2-day series\)](#)

7/30/26

[Sponsored Webinar - How to Practically Adopt & Use AI in Fundraising \(Without Losing Your Mind\)](#)

7/31/26

[African American/Black Affinity Group Meeting](#)

Thanks to our 2026 Annual Sponsors:



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Before you take this step, please check your spam folder and
that your email address is current on your AFP Global account.



Watch [our website](#) for updates and more upcoming events.



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