

## Eagle Mount's Campus

### The Heart of the Community



*Bob and Greta break ground in 2007 for the Tim and Mary Barnard Aquatics Center.*

When Gen. Bob and Mrs. Greta Mathis retired to Bozeman in June of 1982 after a decorated four-star military career, they hatched their plans for Eagle Mount. As someone who was deeply motivated by her faith to serve the community, the name Eagle Mount came from Greta, with Isaiah 40 as the inspiration. "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall: but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up on wings of eagles. They shall not grow weary; they shall walk and not faint."

After operating out of the back of Subarus at Bridger Bowl and the Woosley Ranch near Sedan, MT for horseback riding, Bill and Glenna deRham donated 10 acres of land on the corner of Third Ave and Goldenstein in Bozeman. From there, Eagle Mount's campus was born.

With the help of an anonymous benefactor and fundraising effort, Claire Daines completed construction on the current program administrative building in 1989. The building was completed without any financing or loans, a debt-free operating principle that has endured with the organization for the past 43 years.

In 1994, the Eagle Mount campus expanded, and the indoor riding facilities were introduced. Our indoor arena and barn were donated by Ken Gerrard and Dave Shelton, land developers in Big Sky, MT. Disassembled, trucked through the canyon, and reassembled at Eagle Mount, by spring of 1996 the first indoor riding lessons took place. The work, mostly completed in partnership with SWMBIA (Southwest Montana Building Industry Assoc), was complicated and time consuming. Years later, the indoor riding arena was named the Murdoch's Indoor Riding Arena, in appreciation for and recognition of Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply's longstanding support.

It was in 2007 when the groundbreaking ceremony took place for the Tim and Mary Barnard Aquatics Center. A year later, the Barnard Pool opened for its first swim class. After spending 20+ years operating swim classes in local hotels, motels, and even the Mathis' home swimming pool, the 10,000 sqft Tim and Mary Barnard Aquatics Center allowed Eagle Mount to double the size of the aquatic-therapy program almost immediately. In 2008, the Barnard Pool was completed for \$2.8m, equivalent to \$4.4m in today's dollars.

And then, Eagle Mount literally made national news when in June 2010, Al Roker and NBC's "Today" show came to Bozeman. Eagle Mount had been chosen as one of five nationwide "Lend a Hand" recipients. According to Today Show archives, NBC's "Lend a Hand" recognized small charities across the country that work toward improving conditions in their communities.

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# Seasons with Storey: A Mother's Memoir



Released on March 31st, longtime ski (and horsemanship) volunteer and current Eagle Mount board member Sandee Mills published her book, **Seasons with Storey: A Mother's Memoir** about her daughter, Storey Mills. "A desperate and frantic mother is on a mission to find a diagnosis and treatment for her young daughter, Storey, who began to show signs of a rare condition at 2 years old. As the seasons pass the mother understands that the more Storey declines, the more love Storey has to give to anyone with an open heart."

19 years (+/-)  
1,107,442 typed words  
13,169 coffee breaks  
247 full moons  
Mixed with a sky of emotions  
= **Seasons with Storey**

100% of book sales proceeds directly benefit Eagle Mount. Find **Seasons with Storey: A Mother's Memoir** on Amazon (<https://a.co/d/iZqVkkY>). Thank you and congratulations, Sandee!

## Thank You to Our Snowsports Volunteers!

As the snow begins to melt and we reflect on the past season, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to all of our incredible snowsports volunteers. Your dedication and hard work have made a profound impact on the lives of our participants, allowing them to experience the joy and freedom of snowsports. From early mornings on the slopes to the countless hours spent ensuring safety and fun, your efforts have created unforgettable memories for everyone involved. Your patience, enthusiasm, and unwavering support have helped our participants build confidence, develop new skills, and enjoy the beauty of winter. Thank you for being the heart and soul of our snowsports program! Your generosity and kindness make a world of difference, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do. Together, we have made this season truly special.



Snowsports volunteers, participants, and staff enjoying the snow.

## Give Big Gallatin Valley is Here!

Spring has arrived, and with it comes the chance to make a significant impact in our community through Give Big Gallatin Valley 2025. We are excited to invite you to join us in this annual 24-hour online celebration of giving, taking place from May 1st to May 2nd.

Getting involved is easy and rewarding. You can donate directly to support our programs, or you can become a Fundraising Superhero by creating a personal fundraising page and sharing it with your network. Every dollar raised goes towards enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities and young people with cancer. Check out the full list of our Give Big events on the right and join us in making a difference.

Help us spread the word! Use the power of social media to raise awareness about Give Big and Eagle Mount's mission. Remember, every action, no matter how small, contributes to a larger impact. Join us in making Give Big Gallatin Valley 2025

a success! Together, we can make a difference! Learn more or sign up to become a Fundraising Superhero at [givebiggv.org/organizations/eaglemount.org](https://givebiggv.org/organizations/eaglemount.org)

**Give Big Fest at The Market**  
6-9 pm Thursday, May 1st

**Eagle Mount at Treeline at The Lark**  
8:30-10:30 am Friday, May 2nd

**Eagle Mount at Cowboy Coffee in Big Sky**  
9-11 am Friday, May 2nd

**Eagle Mount at Montana Ale Works**  
4-6 pm Friday, May 2nd

Visit our Eagle Mount Give Big page!





# The Creators Club

## Connection Through Creativity

Since January, Eagle Mount has been bringing people together each month through a new Arts program offering called the Creators Club. Designed to foster community among participants, families, volunteers, and staff, the club provides a space for all at Eagle Mount to try new crafts, develop their artistic skills, and connect with others through creativity.



*Making paper at All-Abilities Spring Break Art Camp.*

The Creators Club is truly a community endeavor. Each workshop focuses on a different art discipline chosen by the club – members can request activities or offer to teach their craft by leading a workshop. So far, the club has explored quite a variety of crafts, including embossed foil, cosmic watercolor, bean mosaics, needle-felting, collage cards, nature drawing, and polymer clay beads. Upcoming workshops will feature moss mosaics, diamond art, and fairy houses, to name a few.

A key feature of the Creators Club is its inclusive, all-abilities approach – anyone in the Eagle Mount community can take part, regardless of experience or skill level. To ensure that workshops are engaging for everyone, the club is divided into two groups: The Curious Crafters are those who are new to art or looking for a more relaxed experience while the Master Makers are more experienced artists who are ready to try advanced techniques.

The Creators Club's format is inspired by that of book clubs, but for art – a way for people to regularly gather, learn, and share their creative interests in a supportive setting. With each session standing on its own, participants can join in when their schedule allows, making it an accessible way to engage with art and connect with others.

For those interested in getting involved – as a club member or workshop leader – reach out to Finn at [fconnors@eaglemount.org](mailto:fconnors@eaglemount.org).



*The Creators Club needle-felting workshop.*

## Eagle Mount's 1st Annual Summer Concert!

We are excited to announce that our first annual summer concert is happening September 4th, 2025 at our outdoor amphitheater. Join us to say thank to our volunteers and to celebrate Eagle Mount! We will have food trucks, a beer garden, and music performed by Lost Canyons, Madeline Hawthorne, and The Dead and Down. For more information and to buy tickets, visit <https://events.sellout.cool/Eagle-Mount-Summer-Concert>.



**SUMMER CONCERT 2025**

Featuring:  
Lost Canyons  
Madeline Hawthorne  
The Dead & Down

EagleMount.org (406) 586-1781 WINGS NEWSLETTER **SPRING 2025** p.3

### Eagle Mount's Campus (Continued from Page 1)

Al Roker's visit is still talked about today by participants, volunteers, and staff who were present to receive the \$1.23 million in donated items – from skis to one of Tom Brokaw's quarter horses (named RC!).



*'Today Show 120'- Al Roker of NBC's Today Show visits Eagle Mount in June 2010 recognizing Eagle Mount as one of five small nonprofits throughout the country that work to improve their community.*

While development on the south side of Bozeman hadn't begun in earnest in 2010, Eagle Mount's board and staff leaders had dreams of expanding our campus and Eagle Mount's offerings. Thankfully, with the help of \$360,000 from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and a generous contribution from the deRham Family Trust, Eagle Mount acquired ten more adjacent acres of land, giving our campus its current 20-acre footprint.

By 2015 it was time to invite more of the public to Eagle Mount. A Future Without Limits campaign helped create an all-inclusive playground, walking paths, music therapy installation, program gardens, and our amphitheater to serve as gathering places for our programming and the entire community.

Last fall, we hosted a grand opening of the Storey Mills Horsemanship Education Center. This 2,600 sqft purposefully built facility improved our horsemanship facilities for participants, volunteers, and parents, and improved our equine care spaces.

While this isn't a complete timeline of how Eagle Mount's campus has grown, our campus has always remained the heart of the community. **In talking with the parent of a participant this week, she described Eagle Mount as their "happy place, an oasis, we feel transformed here and it's built for us!"**

And now, it's our time to build a bridge to the future. As development knocks on Eagle Mount's doorstep, we are hopeful for what's to come with opportunities to expand Eagle Mount's campus and keep its spirit as the heart of the community strong for today and tomorrow. We have been working on some exciting initiatives that will help shape Eagle Mount's next chapter and we look forward to sharing them with everyone later this year!



*Longtime participants, Emily and Ruth, help Sandee Mills cut the ribbon to open the Storey Mills Horsemanship Education Center in October 2024.*

## Community Partner Spotlight

### Toyota and Adaptive Recreation

The notion that "it takes a village" immediately comes to mind when thinking of the broad base of supporters that make Eagle Mount programs a possibility. Our community partners – businesses and organizations that sponsor programs and events – are vital to providing the high-level programming Eagle Mount is known to offer.

2025 brings new partnerships: we are delighted to have the support of Toyota. In an age where multi-modal transportation is an imperative, Toyota has deeply committed to the broad notion of mobility for all. And, Toyota has demonstrated this commitment through focused initiatives that promote inclusive sporting opportunities for people with disabilities. A small sampling of the many initiatives include presenting sponsorships of the Special Olympics Unified Cup and 2024 Paralympics – Paris, directly working with athletes on the development of new sit-skis and ski-sleds, partnering with the National Ability Center and the

Toyota Wheel Park – a world-first hybrid skate park designed to bring together adaptive and non-adaptive wheeled action sports in one facility.

Toyota's commitment is most apparent in their recognition and support of local recreation opportunities accessible to individuals of all abilities. Eagle Mount community partners recognize that every body has challenges ...with Eagle Mount, everyone has adventures. Thank you, Toyota!



# TOYOTA





6901 Goldenstein Ln  
Bozeman, MT 59715

## Supporting Eagle Mount's Mission

**Donations make Eagle Mount adventures possible!** A gift to Eagle Mount isn't just a gift to an organization - it's support for joy, adventure, connection, strength, confidence, and so much more!

### One-Time Donation



Make a donation to Eagle Mount.  
Use the online link above, the  
enclosed envelope, or visit:  
[eaglemount.org/support/](https://eaglemount.org/support/)

### Monthly Giving



A recurring donation to Eagle  
Mount. Use the online link above.

### Sponsorships



Support Eagle Mount through one  
of our sponsorship opportunities  
(great for businesses  
and foundations).

*Participate, Volunteer, and Donate today at [eaglemount.org](https://eaglemount.org)*

## Thank you for supporting Eagle Mount!



# Because of You

## Volunteer Spotlights



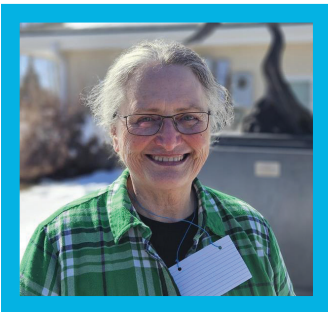
### Gabby Wellenstein: Snowsports Intern

Gabby has been our enthusiast volunteer in Family Engagement, Adaptive Arts and Adaptive Sports over the last 4 months. Gabby has enjoyed making connections with our participants and their families during her time at Eagle Mount. Gabby says, "Seeing the smiles on the participants faces is truly the highlight of my day" Gabby expressed she hopes to pursue a career in non-profits or become an extension agent but will miss being involved with the Eagle Mount community. Thank you, Gabby!



### Judy Staigmiller: Horsemanship Volunteer

For more than 10 years, Judy has been a steadfast volunteer for the Horsemanship Program. Judy's calm, supportive guidance helps participants achieve their goals. From weekly riding lessons to the Annual Horse Show, we know we can rely on Judy! We were proud to recognize her as the Horsemanship Volunteer of the Year in 2023. Eagle Mount is so grateful to have such dedicated, long term volunteers to help provide great experiences to our community. Thank you, Judy!



### Barb Oyster: Arts and Horticulture Volunteer

Barb has been a dedicated volunteer at Eagle Mount for more than 15 years. A longtime Horticulture volunteer, Barb has spent countless hours caring for the gardens, watering the greenhouse plants, and helping participants plant seeds and harvest their bounty. Last spring, Barb also became an Arts volunteer, and has been sharing her love for polymer clay, fairy houses, and more ever since. Whether we're painting, printmaking, or sculpting with cardboard, Barb uses her creativity to help participants turn their ideas into reality. Last summer, Barb even custom-made all of the costumes for the Theater play, matching them perfectly to each participant's vision for their character. We are so lucky to have Barb's joyful energy in our programs, and so grateful to her for sharing so much of her time and talents with us. Thank you, Barb!

➡ Thank you to our volunteers for helping to carry out our mission! Interested in volunteering? Learn more or sign up today at [eaglemount.org](https://eaglemount.org)

## Featured Event: Western Rendezvous

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 14th, 2025**



Help us kick off summer at the Western Rendezvous! Come to the Eagle Mount campus and raise your paddle to support our mission in the live auction. Enjoy BBQ and kick up your boots to live music by the Western Skies band. Seating is family-style with reserved tables for eight and ten available. Tickets are available at [eaglemount.org](https://eaglemount.org) and at the door.

For more information, visit us online at [eaglemount.org](https://eaglemount.org) or email [events@eaglemount.org](mailto:events@eaglemount.org)

