



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
the Heart of Wyoming

Summer 2017

# Building Hope

*Inside:*

- Habitat Casper's Largest Affordable Housing Project to Date
- Meet Our Families
- Spotlight on Local Volunteers



Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming  
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# Habitat Happenings

Habitat for Humanity's Bi Annual Newsletter

Summer 2017

## Big News

We are delighted to share with you that Habitat for Humanity has secured a **13 lot subdivision**, our largest affordable housing project to date, and development will begin this year!

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to serve families experiencing serious deficiencies in their current housing situations. We are heartbroken when local families share of their dire living conditions including cases of no running water, insufficient heating for our harsh winters, drug paraphernalia in their children's play areas, and without proper access and accommodations for family members with special needs.

Habitat for Humanity has been actively seeking an opportunity to impact a greater number of Casper area children and

## Women Build

On May 6, 2017, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming, held its first annual Women Build Day Event. The response and turn out from our Casper community was unprecedented. The day began and ended with women (and men) coming together to build at the South Conwell home – and build they did!! Over 60 participants framed the home's walls, began construction on the storage shed, attached sheathing, and built the structure for the back deck. The amount of work these ladies accomplished and the energy they brought to the site was inspiring!!

Habitat for Humanity's National Women Build Week is a week long event created by its Women Build program that invites women

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## Key Dates

-  July 10 | **New Application Cycle Opened**
-  August 3 | **Art Walk Event** | 5 - 8 p.m.
-  August 9 | **Dedication Ceremony for the House Family**
-  September 1 | **Application Cycle Closes**
-  October 13 | **3rd Annual Building Haven Gala**

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## From the Executive Director's Desk

As Habitat for Humanity's impact expands into the development of a 13 lot subdivision, a need to change our organizational structure was recognized. As you may know, our program services are expansive and include the homeownership application process, construction of homes, coordination of volunteers, financial literacy education, mortgage lending as well as mortgage origination and servicing, and support to all Habitat homeowners for the life of their loan. The importance of these programs, the careful attention to detail and the dedicated time they require, merit a Program Manager to develop and lead these services.

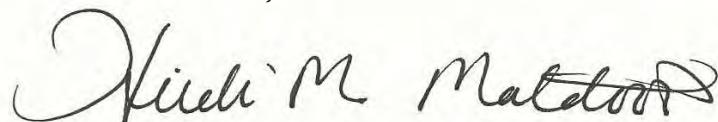
We are pleased to share that our program services are being reorganized and are undergoing the incorporation of multiple positive changes in anticipation of a permanent Program Manager who will join our team of professionals in the months ahead.

During this transitional stage, Habitat for Humanity staff member, Jamie Smith, is dedicating her education and experience into implementing improvements to the

program services until her time in Casper concludes in late 2017. In preparation for a permanent Program Manager, Jamie is providing a critical understanding of the importance of the work we do and the impact a permanent affordable home can have for a household. She is working diligently to develop the program services and has been instrumental in our focused efforts to reorganize the program services and improve services to Natrona County.

Please join me in welcoming and thanking Jamie for taking on these valuable roles. Jamie can be reached at [designassociate.habitat@gmail.com](mailto:designassociate.habitat@gmail.com).

Habitat for Humanity is delighted to have a team of qualified professionals serving and we are confident this will bring about positive change for affordable housing in Natrona County.



-Heidi M. Maldoon, Executive Director

## About Us

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming, a nonprofit housing organization, brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. People partner with Habitat for Humanity to build a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering, or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower.

### About Habitat for Humanity International

Founded in Americus, Georgia, USA, in 1976, Habitat for Humanity today operates around the globe and has helped build, renovate and repair more than 600,000 decent, affordable houses sheltering more than 3 million people worldwide.

## Board of Directors

Jim Edgeworth, President  
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## Staff Members

Heidi Maldoon, Executive Director  
Shawn Martz, Construction Manager  
Anita McCoy, Finance Manager  
Jamie Smith, Design Associate & Program Manager

# Habitat Secures 13 Lot Subdivision



FUTURE HOME OF...

## HARRIS CROSSING

A 13 LOT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

families in need of safe, permanent housing so they may flourish in school, work and their futures.

All of the homes to be constructed on the cul-de-sac subdivision, a 2.91 acre property, won't reach completion until 2021, but the excitement as development of the subdivisions infrastructure commences is palpable.

The \$2.5 million development of 13 homes will encompass an undeveloped property in east Casper. Once complete, it will be the largest Habitat for Humanity project in the Casper area.

"The subdivision's name, Harris Crossing, is an intentional blending of our organization's rich past and converging future, said Heidi Maldoon, Executive Director of the local Habitat for Humanity. "Harris' honors the work of Don and Hallie Harris, who founded Habitat for Humanity in Casper, while 'Crossing' represents the intersection and collaboration of homeowners and community to create a supportive and thriving neighborhood."

Habitat for Humanity has commissioned the development of the engineered infrastructure including roads, curbs, gutters, and utilities with completion anticipated to be late fall. Beginning July

10, the organization will accept applications for the first round of future homeowners that will help build their homes at Harris Crossing.

Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership Program offers the opportunity to become a homeowner to individuals willing to invest 500 sweat equity hours into building their home, attendance in homebuyer education classes, and repayment of a no-interest mortgage once occupying their permanently affordable home.

Habitat for Humanity homeowners' mortgage payments are limited to ensure the home remains affordable. The mortgage payment is calculated with estimated utility and insurance costs to ensure housing related expenses remain at or below 30 percent of a the household's gross monthly income. Homebuyer education courses are required for all future homebuyers participating in the Homeownership Program.

Harris Crossing homes will be designed to a 3 bedroom home, and as needed, accommodate larger households with additional bedrooms. As with all Habitat projects, Harris Crossing could not be built without volunteers. Construction volunteers regularly arrive on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday work



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- A well-built architecture that is responsive to its context and seamlessly blends conventional and affordable housing.
- A comprehensive and continuous design aesthetic speaking to the industrious spirit of Casper, applied to a variety of house plans to accommodate varying family sizes.
- A streetscape that provides a safe place for kids to play through the use of lighting, trees, parking, and fencing.
- The creation of a desired community; a neighborhood that anyone would be proud to call home.
- Adhesion to the Generation Casper Comprehensive Plan. Fostering a sense of community pride by focusing on design decisions that enhance the quality of life and celebrate the entrepreneurial culture of Casper. Contributing to the residential vision of a "safe, family-friendly, economically diverse, and affordable" community.

days and businesses and community groups often schedule groups to volunteer on the construction site.

Harris Crossing will offer more than an affordable home to 13 future homeowners and their households. It will be a permanent, stable neighborhood for generations to establish roots and reach their goals in the years to come.



*Conceptual Rendering*

# Casper's First Annual Women Build Event



to devote at least one day to help families build strength, stability and independence through housing. The week is meant to spotlight the homeownership challenges faced by women.

National Women Build Week is held the week leading up to Mother's Day in 300 communities. Hosting the event during this week reinforces the message that every woman can make a difference through learning and using construction skills. More than 80,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered at the eight previous National Women Build Week events.

### **Lowe's and Women Build**

In 2009, Lowe's renewed its commitment to Habitat with a five-year partnership agreement. By 2013, Lowe's will have contributed nearly \$40 million to Habitat for Humanity.

"Lowe's involvement with Women Build is much more than a financial arrangement—it is a reflection

of our commitment to address the nationwide issue of substandard housing. We are helping to build homes everyone can take pride in—our employees, the volunteers, the partner families and the communities." — Larry Stone, chairman of Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation.

### ***Thank you to our 2017 Sponsors & Donors:***

Albertsons (West Side) , Backwards Distillery, Bill & Mary England, Burger King (West Side), Casper Construction Supply, Inc., Coca-Cola, First Interstate Bank, Grainger, Java Jitters Espresso, Just Breathe Skin Care, Kala C. Hodgins-Fryar, Mary Kay Consultant, Lowes, Mystic Mountain Distillery, Party America, Quality Office Solutions Inc., Ridleys, Starbucks (North Casper), Target, Ted Thompson, Property Maintenance Specialist, Inc., Thrivent Financial, United Church of Christ

## Financial Foundation Classes to Continue

**Financial Foundations**

**Class**

Sept. 12th - Oct. 3rd  
Tuesdays 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

A FREE 4-WEEK CLASS FOR PEOPLE  
INTERESTED IN GAINING THE FINANCIAL SKILLS TO  
BECOME A SUCCESSFUL HOME OWNER

IF INTERESTED CONTACT  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

EMAIL:  
[designassociate.habitat@gmail.com](mailto:designassociate.habitat@gmail.com)

232 East 2nd Street, Suite 204  
307-234-1348

CHILDCARE PROVIDED



The Wyoming Housing Network and Habitat for Humanity have renewed their partnership to continue offering **free training** for those who wish to apply for a Habitat home or are simply seeking to gain information regarding home ownership. Through a collaboration with the Wyoming Housing Network, the financial education classes are led by certified housing counselors and cover topics such as setting financial goals, creating a budget, understanding credit ratings and scores, improving credit and reducing debt, and the importance of saving. Participants receive information on a variety of homeownership and down payment assistance programs for consideration throughout the class sessions.

The **Wells Fargo Housing Foundation** announced its continued sponsorship of financial education classes for future homebuyers provided through Habitat for Humanity for a second year. In 2016, the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation provided initial funding to Habitat for Humanity to implement the financial education classes for the first year.

Building on the success and response from the community during the first year, Habitat for Humanity committed to continuing to provide the financial education for a second year. The Wells Fargo Housing Foundation renewed its support of the program by awarding funding for a second year.

## Thank You!

We cannot thank these businesses enough for their support and partnership:

- **Civil Engineering Professionals, Inc.** - CEPI continues to donate services at each of our build sites! Most recently at the South Conwell home, CEPI provided the survey and their crew time to us free of charge. CEPI's in-kind donations allow for more homes to be built, and thus allows for more Casper families to be served.
- **Keefe's Flowers** featured us as their charity of the month for April 2017! What an excellent way of giving back to the community, and not to mention the arrangements are absolutely beautiful!!!
- **Quality Office Solutions** of Casper has generously donated bulk printing and gave us a screaming deal on our office furniture during our recent move. We can attest to the quality and truly value this partnership!
- **Lenhart, Mason and Associates** selected us as a recipient for an internal fund-raiser. Thank you for your support!
- **Five Guys** Community Night was held in February. Great food while supporting a great cause!
- **Casper Rotary Club** for the invitations to speak at local meetings. We greatly appreciate the opportunity!

## Soldier Supports Habitat



Casper native, Kris Stenhaug is showing his Habitat pride all the way from Iraq. Kris, a Natrona County High School graduate, is currently deployed overseas and otherwise stationed at Ft. Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska. Thank you for your service and support, return home safely!!

## Interns Wanted

**Administrative, Marketing and Construction** internships opportunities are available with Habitat for Humanity! You could learn about the work of non-profits, gain new skills, and be a part of exciting projects that benefit our local community!

Apply by sending your resume to [heartofwyoming@gmail.com](mailto:heartofwyoming@gmail.com) or to request more information. We are excited to hear from potential applicants and work with you for a semester of flexible hours, great mentors, new learning opportunities and experiences that last a lifetime!

## Job Shadow



On April 18th, Abigail, a Senior at Kelly Walsh High School, spent the morning with Habitat for Humanity's Executive Director and visited the construction site as part of a job shadow experience. We were delighted to share with Abigail about the great work of affordable housing being done through Habitat for Humanity. Thank you, Abigail, for choosing to learn more about our program and our best wishes to you as you graduate and pursue your dreams!

*We were honored to be a Nominee for the 2017 Organization of the Year Awarded by the Chamber of Commerce! We appreciate the recognition and were honored to be awarded 2nd place!*

## We're on Instagram



In April we joined Instagram! Follow us for additional updates, construction photos, event announcements, ways to get involved, and more! **@habitatcasperwyoming** Try our new hash tag, #habitatcasperwyoming, next time you're on site or at a Habitat event to share the love!

# Harris Crossing Naming Reveal



A heartwarming moment in the Habitat office when we were able to share with Don Harris the announcement of our latest project, Harris Crossing, which is named in he and his wife, Hallie's, honor. Don and Hallie Harris founded Habitat for Humanity in the Casper area in 1994. In a special moment, four generations of family were present for the revealing of the subdivision name. Thank you Don and Hallie for championing this organization within our community!

## Logo Competition & Art Walk

Habitat will be participating in the **Downtown Art Walk, Thursday, August 3rd** in the Market Square Building, Suite 104 from **5pm – 8pm**. Currently, we are holding a competition for the design of a logo for our latest project, a 13 lot subdivision (Harris Crossing) that will begin development this year. The community will be invited to vote for their favorite logo, leave a message for future homeowners on 2x4 studs, and hard hats will be provided for children to wear and customize!

The graphic logo will be used for public marketing, fund-raising, community awareness, signage, and more to convey the overall quality, aesthetic, and character the development seeks to achieve. A \$100.00 prize will be awarded to the artist of the winning logo design.

What does your ideal home look like?  
(Dream big!)

*"Ours. The home has good curb appeal and is very enjoyable."*

- Current Casper Homeowner, 2010  
Melanie Cantu-Busler

If you had to complete the entire process again from start to finish, would you?

*"Absolutely. You get to meet great people; people who you discover actually like you and know that you're capable of great things. The construction process is a good, honest, hard day of work. If people are not willing to work for their home, this program is not for them."*

- Current Casper Homeowner, 2016  
Donielle Beard

# Under Construction

The House Family 1653 S. Washington



The inspiring story of mom, Rachel, and now 3 year old twins, Alivia and Isaac, reflects a the journey of a diligent and devoted parent ensuring their growing family would have a permanent home to grow and thrive together in.

Knowing the importance of support during the transition into parenthood, Rachel became a resident of Seton House. Within Seton House's program, Rachel gained housing assistance as well as an opportunity to focus on her finances and prepare her growing family for a suitable long-term housing situation.

In two years time, Rachel, Alivia and Isaac had transitioned into an apartment with assistance from the Casper Housing Authority. During that time, Rachel was establishing her employment in the childcare industry and she began to further her career through pursuit of higher education. Today, Rachel is nearing completion of her Child Development Associate Credential which will provide future opportunities within the industry.

Rachel became known to by her colleagues and friends to be a person that focuses on paying it forward for others who are facing challenges whenever the opportunity arose. One individual that recognized this in Rachel, was her friend, Donielle,

who through Habitat for Humanity, became a homeowner in the summer of 2016. Donielle knew Rachel's diligence and willingness to partner would make her a great candidate for the Homeownership Program and she encouraged Rachel to consider applying.

Rachel's application was accompanied by letters of support and recommendation which confirmed many of the reasons that Rachel was selected to partner in the Homeownership Program. The author of one letter of recommendation expressed it in this way, "She has managed to raise these children with knowledge of respect for others and kindness to others, she has taught them manners and the difference between right and wrong. I watch this little family grow and thrive weekly. She is resourceful and goes after what she needs with great determination. She will become your greatest success story."

## Completed Construction

*Since being founded in 1994, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming has constructed 32 homes in Natrona County. With houses number 33 and 34 under construction.*

# Under Construction

The Hurst Family 1242 S. Conwell



Sabrina's application for the Homeownership Program included a letter of support from her employer which stated, "Sabrina Hurst is the type of person, when given the opportunity, makes the most of it."

Habitat for Humanity couldn't agree more and we are delighted to be working with Sabrina, and her two children. Rebecca, age 12, loves all animals as well as drawing and she attends Centennial Middle School. Steven, age 10, attends Willard Elementary where he receives support for his special needs and at play time he loves legos and cars the most. Sabrina is an extraordinary parent who cares for her children and the special needs of their family with incredible strength and patience.

Sabrina's sacrifice as a parent for the betterment of her children, both today and in their future, is seen daily. Sabrina shared in her application, 'I live in a small 2 bedroom trailer. I need at least three rooms. I have a boy and a girl so I have taken to sleeping on the couch. I've been working hard, but a home of my own keeps evading me.'

True to her word, Sabrina is as dedicated and hard working of an employee as she is a parent. Sabrina became employed by Recycled Materials seven years ago and swiftly became an asset to the company. Within two weeks, she proved that she was both

capable and willing to become more than a general laborer, and began learning to run a skid steer loader. Today, Sabrina is a highly skilled track hoe operator whose role is to demolish buildings.

Habitat for Humanity partnered with Sabrina's employer, Recycled Materials, to demolish a structure on a South Conwell Street lot in order to prepare it for a future Habitat home to be constructed. Sabrina and Habitat's Executive Director met on site while Sabrina operated the backhoe and discussed the application process. After applying, Sabrina was selected because she was a highly qualified applicant displaying the willingness to partner, the ability to repay a no-interest mortgage and the need for housing.

Sabrina's new home will be constructed on the same South Conwell Street lot which she prepared for a future Habitat home. She just didn't know it was going to be her new home!

## Volunteer Spotlights



### Greg Olson

*Construction volunteer with Habitat: 11 years*

Greg worked for the State of Wyoming for 30 years. While working for the state he participated in a Blitz Build that Habitat hosted, sparking his initial interest to volunteer with Habitat once retired. (A Blitz Build is a focused build of a house in which the home is typically completed in a one week time frame). Greg is a regular volunteer with Habitat every Tuesday, Thursday, and many Saturdays, leaving early only to make it to Taco Tuesdays. He claims that he only knows how long he has been a volunteer because he is on his second tetanus shot! The always positive, light-hearted Greg is easily recognizable by his flannel in the winter and humble demeanor. Greg said that he continues to volunteer with Habitat because of the fun group that he works with on site, stating that laughter makes the time fly by. He mentioned that Habitat is a great program for the community as volunteers are not required to have a specific skill set when arriving at the job site. Greg joked that they've been trying to try him for years and have yet to be successful!



### Dave Davis

*Construction volunteer with Habitat: 4 years*

Dave has an extensive background in teaching and working in the construction field, lending a tremendous amount of knowledge and expertise to the Habitat construction sites. Teaching at Kelly Walsh from 1991-2013, Dave taught architectural drafting, construction courses, mechanical drawing, woodworking, graphic arts, photography, and even math. Additionally, he worked as a carpenter and on construction sites during the summer. Once retired, it seemed like an obvious fit to dedicate his time and skill set to building Habitat Homes. When asked what keeps him motivated to return every Tuesday and Thursday, he described the camaraderie on site and the day to day banter that occurs. While a master at most of the building trades, Dave most enjoys framing and watching the exterior of the home come together. Dave volunteers with Habitat because at this point in his life, when his days aren't filled with work and kids, he has the opportunity to give back to his community and help those who haven't been as lucky.



## Charlie Patterson

*NOWCAP Partner with Habitat: 1 year*

Charlie began working with Habitat through placement with NOWCAP Services. NOWCAP provides innovative services to people with developmental disabilities and brain injuries throughout Wyoming. The quality of care, the individualized programs and the organizational philosophy provide participants a framework to develop a sense of purpose in their lives which brings joy and hope for what their future holds. Charlie serves a vital role at the Habitat job site, enforcing the 10:00 a.m. break period in which the crew gets refreshments and discuss a wide variety of topics over snacks. Charlie emphasizes that he loves the work on site and is more than happy to help out!

## New Application Cycle Open

Our new application cycle for the Homeownership Program is open; **July 10 – September 1**. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying, you can download the full application packet from our website, [heartofwyoming.org](http://heartofwyoming.org).

Do you qualify for a Habitat Home? Prospective Habitat homeowners must demonstrate a need for safe housing, must be willing to partner with Habitat including work for “sweat equity” build hours, and must be able and willing to pay an affordable mortgage.

Can anyone apply to be a Habitat homeowner? Yes. Habitat follows a nondiscriminatory policy of home-buyer selection. Neither race nor religion is a factor.

Please contact us at [designassociate.habitat@gmail.com](mailto:designassociate.habitat@gmail.com) if you are interested and have any questions regarding the application process.

## Whirlpool Partnership

Whirlpool Corporation today announced it will renew its longtime partnership with Habitat for Humanity throughout 2017, continuing to provide **a new range and refrigerator for every new Habitat for Humanity home** in the U.S.

“We thank Whirlpool for their long-term support of helping families obtain decent and affordable housing,” said Colleen Finn Ridenhour, senior vice president of Development, Habitat for Humanity International. “Whirlpool’s generosity has helped families transform their lives, and we look forward to continuing to partner together.”

In more than 18 years of partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Whirlpool has developed active programs in more than 45 countries with a commitment of more than \$101 million. In the United States and Canada, the company has donated more than 184,000 ranges and refrigerators to new Habitat homes, serving nearly 92,000 families.

# Volunteer Team Build Days



**USDA - Rural Development**  
January 2017



**University Park Elementary School Staff**  
March 2017



**Wyoming Community Development Authority**  
March 2017



**Wells Fargo**  
April 2017



**Marriott Employees**  
May 2017

## How to Volunteer:

Our construction site is open every **Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday** from 8 a.m. - Noon.

We welcome community members of any skill level who are willing to share of their time in support of construction of homes for low-income families in Natrona County.

Opportunities to volunteer with the organization are abundant! We work diligently to match each volunteer with a service opportunity that fits their skills, schedule and interests.

# Thank You!



**Wyoming Community Development Authority**  
June 2017



**Breck Media Group**  
July 2017

## Third Annual Building Haven



Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming is hosting its 3rd Annual Building Haven on **Friday, October 13th, 2017**, at the Casper Country Club.

The evening will be filled with inspirational stories from families served by Habitat for Humanity, auctions, wine tasting, and Nancy Norton, a comedian from Denver Comedy Works.

Individual ticket cost is \$100.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased online from our website, [heartofwyoming.org](http://heartofwyoming.org).

We are deeply thankful for the event sponsor's that make this event a reality. Thank you to these event sponsors who have already confirmed their tables!

- American Title Agency
- ANB Bank
- Bromley Real Estate
- Edgeworth Real Estate Company
- First Interstate Bank
- Hilltop National Bank
- Kirkwood Oil and Gas
- Macy's
- Mt. Rushmore Broadcasting
- Summit Title Services
- Wyoming Community Development Authority
- Wyoming Housing Network

Limited table sponsorship opportunities remain available. Show the community your support for the work of housing local families in need by sponsoring a table for this annual event. Contact Heidi Maldoon at [heartofwyoming@gmail.com](mailto:heartofwyoming@gmail.com) for more information.



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# Habitat for Humanity®

## the Heart of Wyoming

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Market Square Building  
232 East 2nd Street, Suite 204  
Casper, WY 82601 United States

tel (307) 234-1348  
[heartofwyoming.org](http://heartofwyoming.org)

### Tax Deductible Donation

Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming is a 501 (c)(3) organization serving families in need in the Natrona County Area.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution

Please bill a credit card in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ CVC\_\_\_\_\_

Card Number\_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date\_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming

Mail to: Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming, **232 East 2nd Street, Suite 204, Casper, WY 82601**

**For online donations please visit [heartofwyoming.org](http://heartofwyoming.org)**