



A Look Back at This Year's Big Hearts Under the Big Sky Banquet

In early 2020, the [Big Hearts under the Big Sky](#) family—including volunteers, supporters, outfitters and more—gathered together in Bozeman to celebrate this wonderful organization. It was an incredible evening filled with a silent and live auction, amazing speakers and a feeling of family. Evening highlights included our Master of Ceremonies Mike Meredith, hearing from Heidi Rink, one of our 2019 Big Hearts recipients, about her son Brady and the impact this program had on their family (in case you missed it, you can [watch Heidi's speech here](#)) and the story of the Beyers family, a dual military family who served in the Marine Corps and came on a Big Hearts trip.

Here are some incredible stats from this year's banquet:

- 20 volunteers** helped get the auction and banquet ready in Bozeman
- More than **150 items** were donated for the live and silent auction
- 300 people** attended the evening banquet
- We raised enough to serve **six families** on Big Hearts under the Big Sky trips in 2020 and beyond



From the bottom of our Big Hearts under the Big Sky hearts, THANK YOU for your donations, time, love, support and commitment to this organization. We simply could not do it without you.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR BIG HEARTS UNDER THE BIG SKY BANQUET:
JANUARY 16, 2021 - DELTA HOTEL HELENA COLONIAL - HELENA**

Volunteer Awards

[MOGA](#) gave two awards for [Big Hearts under the Big Sky](#) program to two very deserving individuals in recognition of their leadership and support. The awards were presented by Rachel Meredith, an EI Board Member and Banquet Chair, to Jim Weber and Representative Frank Garner.

Jim Weber has been a driving force behind the Big Hearts under the Big Sky program for years. He has served as a trip ambassador and has provided tremendous support and guidance for Big Hearts. A teacher in Helena, Jim has also involved the next generation – his students – to broaden awareness and support for the mission of Big Hearts under the Big Sky.

Representative Frank Garner carried House Bill 275 – Revising Hunting Privileges for Purple Heart Recipients – to the Montana Legislature. The bill passed all committees and both chambers without a single nay vote. This unprecedented action now allows active duty Purple Heart recipients to receive donated hunting privileges without claiming a combat disability.



Greater Helena Gives: Save the Date

Another big fundraising event is just around the corner: **Greater Helena Gives**. For 2020, [Greater Helena Gives](#) takes place for 24 hours, starting **April 30 at 6 p.m. and ending May 1 at 6 p.m.** Each year, Big Hearts under the Big Sky is lucky enough to get a match from a donor, up to \$10,000. To keep this program functioning, we want to raise as much money as we can during these 24 hours. Please plan to save the date and join us for Greater Helena Gives!

If you'd like to help us grow this part of our fundraising program and lead efforts in Missoula, Bozeman and Billings for their respective events, [please email Kashia](#).

Up next: stay tuned for more information from Kashia at the MOGA office. She'll be communicating more information through email, social media and via text.



Here's how you can help:

- Save the date for April 30/May 1 and plan to give to [Greater Helena Gives](#)
- Invite your friends and family to participate in this event and the incredible Big Hearts program
- Once you receive the emails with how to give, **forward them** to your networks, friends and family
- Follow Big Hearts under the Big Sky on [Facebook here](#)

A Look at This Year's Big Hearts Festivities

It takes a village to bring the [Big Hearts under the Big Sky](#) Banquet to life each year. The end result: a special evening filled with friendship, camaraderie, family and a love for helping others. Here's a look at the attendees at this year's banquet.



There are many ways to make an impact now—and for years to come—for Big Hearts trip recipients. One of the easiest ways to ensure that Big Hearts can continue providing outstanding trips at NO COST to these remarkable families is by making a gift to the Big Hearts under the Big Sky endowment. You may find, as many others have, that you can minimize your taxes while maximizing your giving.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!



Big Hearts under the Big Sky is a program started by the **Montana Outfitters and Guides Association**. MOGA places individuals diagnosed with life threatening illnesses and military veterans who have provided extraordinary service to our country, on fully guided and outfitted trips at no charge.

To meet the mission of the Big Hearts program, we partner with several well-known national charities. These MOGA partners perform a vital function of identifying qualified persons who desire and will benefit from an outfitted adventure trip of a lifetime in Montana. MOGA works to match their needs with the right outfitters and guides to fulfill their dreams. In some cases, our partners may also play an equally important role in helping execute the trip.

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