

# Empowering Women to Improve Their Lives After Significant Challenges

**Grant Type:** Dollar

**Grant Amount:** Several years of grant support of between \$5,000 and \$7,000 per year to HAVEN and Thrive in Bozeman, Montana)

**Organization:** Doll Family Foundation



## What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

Grants to HAVEN were to build that organization's fund development capacity and attract new and increased resources for a new domestic violence shelter.

Grants to Thrive were to promote that organization's family development programming regionally and nationally to attract larger-scale funding.

## What was your approach?

This approach combined two of the foundation's interests: assisting low-income women and promoting philanthropy. By sticking with the two nonprofit organizations for several years in a row, these modestly sized grants produced outsized impact!

## What were the outsized results?

For HAVEN:

- Increased by 18% the contributions received in a year.
- Increased the number of major donors (giving \$5,000 or more) in 1 year.
- Organized the first donor cultivation event; had 50 attendees.
- Produced the first promotional video.
- Started professional development for HAVEN staff.

For Thrive:

- Received a \$65,000 grant from the State of Montana and a federal grant for \$40,000. These grants allowed Thrive to increase by 30% the number of families served.
- A completed peer-reviewed article on the Thrive family development program will be submitted to research journals for publication.
- Thrive was invited to make a presentation on its work at the Montana governor's Best Beginnings State Advisory Council.

This effort provides measurable evidence that small grants, focus, and patience can result in short-term impact (i.e., increased resources for both grantees) and longer-term effects (i.e., both groups now have increased capacity for fund development).

