

"TEACHING GENEROSITY TO THE 4,000 STUDENTS OF BLAINE COUNTY FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY"

Generosity Impressions- an introduction to the Student Generosity Initiative in Blaine County

It's no secret that each and every one of us is lucky to live in Blaine County. Whether an avid mountain biker, leisure skier, or business owner, the people and this community provide a thriving atmosphere for anyone who is willing to invest in the Wood River Valley.

Wow-students was started in 2012 as an initiative of the Wood River Foundation, to promote community responsibility by inspiring citizens to invest their time, talent, or treasure in Blaine County. The vision is to create a stronger community through generosity. The belief is that if each individual recognizes they have the ability to make a difference, a stronger and more vibrant community will result.

In 2012, wow-students' investors contributed \$120,000 to the Student Generosity Initiative to engage its 4,000 countywide students. They partnered with the classrooms in Blaine County and it's nonprofits to not only show the benefits of coming together for the greater good of the community, but that generosity can be fun too! The participating nonprofits were tasked with creating projects that the students could choose. The projects were designed specifically for kindergarten through 12th grade students to engage them in creative and measurable ways. The goal was for the students to discover that no effort or investment is too small to make a difference. The classrooms chose the project and learned how they would be directly affecting the community.

The projects ranged from creating welcome packs for The Advocates to planting trees for The Wood River Land Trust to serving ice cream at The Connection.

The private and public schools in collaboration with the nonprofits of Blaine County have created experiences that demonstrate to every student the joy and power of gener-



osity and compassion.

Wow-students is partnering with *The Weekly Sun* to bring you weekly updates and information on student generosity and community engagement, as well as stories and tips on how increased awareness can help our community gain strength and how you and your family can get involved. Moving into the 2013-2014 season of the Student Generosity Initiative, wow-students is engaged in continuing and growing the participation of the students and the community through this unique program. If you are interested in becoming an investor or participating in our Student Generosity Initiative, please contact Morley Golden (mgolden@wow-students.org) or Louise Stumph (lstumph@wow-students.org). We look forward to engaging you in our weekly editorials!

GENEROSITY QUOTE

"Be practical as well as generous in your ideals. Keep your eyes on the stars, but remember to keep your feet on the ground."
-Theodore Roosevelt

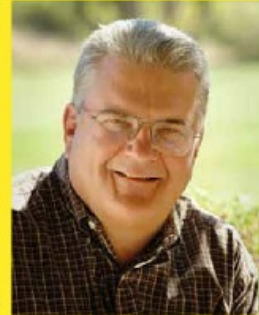
WOW-Students mission is to inspire and expand generosity in Blaine County. WOW empowers students to make a difference and take responsibility for their community, inspiring others to follow.

- ★ 1 county
- 10 schools
- 13 grades
- 12 investors
- 31 nonprofits
- 120 teachers
- 1,977 students
- 15,000 service hours
- \$135,000 generosity

wow-students.org

**Meet the Valley-
Morley Golden**

My grandparents laid the foundation of generosity and compassion for me early in life. My first recollection was giving "my things" to the Junior League Rummage sale in San Diego. That led to over twenty years of volunteering at the sale and almost a half-century of serving on nonprofit boards. It all came together in 2012, wow-students' inaugural year.



The joy of generosity was driven home when I attended the Community School assembly in October, where each class pitched their selected project to the upper school students hoping they would join them. A very emotional morning- it had begun! From there it just got more joyful; bowls of Amaryllis, dissecting fish, horses and kids, dogs and kids, sign making for a para-athlete Nordic event, public art and of course the Ugly dolls. What more could one ask for.

The genesis of wow-students was to provide an opportunity for our youth to experience generosity and learn about the broad reach of services that the nonprofits provide their community. Selfishly, I couldn't have crafted a more joyful experience for me. I invite everyone in our community to join us on this journey and experience generosity personally and through the eyes of valley's youth.

GET TO KNOW 'EM • GET THEIR STATS!

- ★ **Name**
Morley Golden
- ★ **Occupation**
Construction Management
- ★ **Favorite Blaine County Activity**
Engaging the sense of place that is this valley
- ★ **Song**
Bon Jovi, 'We weren't Born to Follow'



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