



# WHITNEY BENEFITS 2009 COMMUNITY REPORT “Building Community”

## **MR WHITNEY**

In his will, he declared, “it seemed well to my mind to devote the net income of the property that I leave towards aiding in the needy and deserving young men and young women in attaining, through education, such positions in life as may appeal to them as best suited to their individual needs and capacities. My estate does not belong to me. I’m only its steward: it belongs to the people and I dare not be careless with it.” Edward A. Whitney

Whitney Benefits was created under the Last Will and Testament of Mr. Edward A. Whitney, a Sheridan County resident, who passed away in 1917. Under the terms of Mr. Whitney’s will, the principal of his estate was to be transferred to the corporation and invested. The net income from the investments was to be used for specific educational purposes.

The original trustees of Whitney’s estate said that Whitney spent three decades of his life planning for his gift to the people of the county. He made extensive investigations in the eastern part of the country as to how trust funds were structured for education. The last years of Whitney’s life were devoted, in part, to thoughtfully revising again and again his final Will. This Will established the Whitney Benefits Foundation, and carried his substantial legacy of concern for, and service to the peoples of Sheridan and Sheridan County onward. Through the foundation, his gift continues to touch and enrich the lives of thousands as Whitney Benefits strives to build our community.



*“MR. WHITNEY” by Felix Velez*

## **BUILDING COMMUNITY AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE WHITNEY LOFTS OPEN WITH 60 ADDITIONAL SUITES**



*SC Students in New Lofts*



*Whitney Lofts at Sheridan College*

In 2007 the Whitney Benefits Board pledged \$7.5 million to Sheridan College towards 150-bed, suite-style student housing units as part of their continued efforts to build our community. Phase I of the housing began with 60 beds called Whitney Villas, and opened for students in September 2008. The Whitney Lofts opened in August 2009 adding 60 more suites in efficiency one bedroom units. Students began living in these modern facilities this fall. The Whitney Lofts also added a new food court area in the Hayes Building, as well as a recreational lounge area in the newly constructed Williams building.



*Whitney Center*

## **WHITNEY BENEFITS GIFTS WHITNEY CENTER TO SHERIDAN COLLEGE**

In March 2009, Whitney Benefits gifted the Whitney Center at 245 Broadway, to Sheridan College, extending the College’s educational campus to downtown and our community. This gift exceeded \$1.76 million, including a newly concreted and landscaped parking lot. Whitney also made a gift of \$30,000 for maintenance needs and \$250,000 to create a maintenance endowment. The endowment gift was matched by \$250,000 from the State of Wyoming to create a \$500,000 maintenance fund. The College plans to use approximately one-half of the first floor space of the building for college programs and continue to lease the other half to current tenants.

## **GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE**

In May 2006, Whitney Benefits gifted Sheridan College \$168,999 to create a Grants and Development Office on campus. The goal was to purposefully increase Federal and State grants to the College to support a variety of initiatives. In July 2008, the Grants and Development Office secured two significant three year grants: \$848,372 from the National Science Foundation (NSF), and \$975,881 from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) – Employment Training Administration. The NSF funded project, Energy Technician Education Program, will result in curriculum for energy technologists for certificates and associates degrees. The DOL High-Growth Job Training Initiative Grant for the Energy Industry will result in a Mining Technology program.

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## **HAND-IN-HAND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OPENS ON LAND DONATED BY WHITNEY BENEFITS**

In December 2007, Whitney Benefits donated land on E. Brundage Street valued at \$426,500 to Sheridan College to build an early childhood development center in our community. The new "Hand-in-Hand" Early Childhood Development Center opened in September 2009. Hand-in-Hand is an organization dedicated to serving children from infancy through school-age, families, and teachers using a model program of exemplary practice which supports children's development as creative, lifelong learners. Their model is founded on the belief that quality early care and education is most successful when collaborations, relationships, and partnerships are forged and supported. Their programming is modeled after high national standards which provide a roster of benchmarks and frameworks to set the highest standards of education and care that can be used as a learning lab-school setting.



*Hand-in-Hand*

The Hand-in-Hand Center has a cooperative agreement with both the University of Wyoming School of Family and Consumer Science and Sheridan College where students in the respective baccalaureate and associates degree programs may intern at the Hand-in-Hand Center. Students in both programs have required internships similar to student teaching requirements for an education degree. UW students spend a dedicated semester in an internship whereas Sheridan College students will intersperse class work and internship modules within the same semester.

Interns apply skills they have learned in an academic setting in a teaching and learning environment. Interns cannot replace classroom teachers or aides in the child to staff ratios. Students will intern in the appropriate semester of their program of studies. UW interns can choose from a variety of locations in Wyoming. Sheridan College students will intern at Hand-in-Hand.



*Play Area*



*Grand Opening*

## **WHITNEY BENEFITS DONATES FOOD TROLLEY TO WYOMING CULINARY PROGRAM**



*Photo courtesy of  
The Sheridan Press,  
Michael Sullivan*

Thanks to the support of Whitney Benefits, Sheridan College students are now operating a catering trolley that sells hot food and drinks Fridays through Sundays at Sheridan Ice. The trolley is part of an innovative educational experience that will help hospitality management students learn the ins and outs of running all aspects of a food service business. The students also have an additional incentive to make sure the catering trolley is profitable, because the money they make ends up back in their pockets. Students who work the trolley are paid an hourly wage, and food and operating costs are paid out of the gross revenue. The remainder of the income is placed into a scholarship fund that supports the educational costs of culinary and hospitality students. The trolley will be used by the students at other community venues after the ice skating season is finished.



*Catering Trolley*

## **E. A. WHITNEY ENDOWED NURSING CHAIR MENTORS LOCAL NURSES**

In 2007, the Health Science Division at Sheridan College was presented a check from Whitney Benefits for \$1 million to fund the Edward A. Whitney Endowed Nursing Chair and Sheridan College hired Dr. Janice E. Stephens for this Endowed Chair. This past year, Dr. Stephens worked in partnership with the University of Wyoming in the RN-BSN Completion program. Through her work, regional interest in baccalaureate education continues to grow and enrollment in her "Introduction to Higher Education in Nursing" course has increased by 25%. Dr. Stephens was pleased to announce that four registered nurses from Sheridan County graduated with their BSN this spring and summer: Katherine Carlson, Robin Horsley, Daanee Kennedy, and Amy Wyatt. Three of the nurses are graduates of Sheridan College's Associate Degree Nursing (A.D.N) Program.

Dr. Stephens also mentored regional nurses working on graduate degrees. Nancy Hooge, Clinical Nurse Educator at Sheridan Memorial Hospital, received her UW Master of Science Degree in the Nurse Educator track. Nancy was the recipient of the "Carol Macnee Scholarship Award" for excellence in scholarship and research. The Endowed Chair, Dr. Stephens was a member of Nancy's graduate committee. Dr. Pamela Clarke from the UW School of Nursing presented Nancy the award for her outstanding study on "Readiness of Wyoming Hospitals in Moving towards Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives". Dr. Clarke noted her research has the potential to change health policy to promote improved breastfeeding outcomes with an expected impact on public health and better nourished babies in Wyoming.

## **FIRST WHITNEY BENEFITS NURSING PRACTICUM RECIPIENTS**

Trudy Munsick, Dean of the Health Science Division at Sheridan College announced that the first Whitney Practicum Experiences were funded in the spring of 2009. According to Judy McDowell, Director of the Associate Degree Program, the Whitney Benefits endowment is designed to enhance nursing student practica in the RN-BSN and A.D.N. programs. This endowment enables students to have access to experiences across the country by providing funding for housing, travel, educational and living expenses. Because of the size of the Sheridan community, some nursing specialties are not available for clinical practica. Ursula Schwirian, as a second year nursing student at Sheridan College, was honored to be one of the first recipients of Whitney Practicum funding. Ursula enhanced her nursing career by completing a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit practicum at Rapid City Regional Hospital in South Dakota. Aimee Tow, also a second year nursing student at Sheridan College, was the second recipient of the Whitney Practicum funding. Aimee completed her nursing practicum at Wyoming Behavioral Institute in Casper, WY. Criteria for participation in this program include: Sheridan or Johnson County resident, enrollment in either the RN-BSN Sheridan College/UW collaboration or the Sheridan College A.D.N. Program, or a recent graduate from the Sheridan College A.D.N. Program. The Nursing Practicum Advisory Board reviews applications three times a year and decides on the recipients.

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## **NATIONAL SEARCH UNDERWAY TO FILL \$2.5 MILLION E.A. WHITNEY ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN AGRICULTURE CHAIR**

Whitney Benefits presented a \$1.25 million check for the E.A. Whitney Professorship in Agriculture to Sheridan College and the University of Wyoming in September 2007. The State of Wyoming matched the grant with an additional \$1.25 million to create the E.A. Whitney Professorship in Agriculture Chair. A national search for an endowed professor is underway. Currently, Ami N. Erickson, Ph.D. is Acting Dean of Agriculture and Technology while a national search is underway to fill this chair. The endowed professor will be a UW College of Agriculture faculty member, based at UW's Sheridan Research and Extension Center (SREC), and the professor will develop course work and research on agriculture, environment, and natural resource issues in northeastern Wyoming, to enhance usage of natural resources



Over 50 students are enrolled in the agriculture programs including the Agriculture Business A.S. class. UW's rangeland ecology faculty members, Dr. Tom Thurow and Dr. Ann Hild, and two focus groups met this past summer to continue developing the newly named "Resource and Ranch Management" program. This program will prepare Sheridan College students to transfer to UW's Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management program, while also training Sheridan College students in the more practical skills that are necessary for a ranch or resource manager.

Another joint effort with UW was the "Mobile Slaughter Unit" presentation at the State Fair. Local meat processing enables producers to access more markets and sell their meat products to local retailers like restaurants and grocery stores. Worland is the closest public state inspected slaughter house. The idea of "Pasture to Plate" could be feasible through educational programs at Sheridan College, and could provide significant learning opportunities. Meat from the Animal Science program could be harvested, processed by the Food Science students in the state-inspected meat laboratory, and Wyoming Culinary Arts students could prepare the meats and serve it with vegetables grown at the youth/community garden. Several joint partnerships are being researched.

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### **STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM - \$26 MILLION LOANED TO 4,981 STUDENTS**

The Whitney Benefits program began providing interest free student loans to Sheridan County residents in 1928. Since inception of the program, through June 30, 2009, the corporation has loaned 4,981 students approximately \$26,128,283.14. For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009 Whitney approved interest free loans totaling \$3,432,363.98 to 127 students; 102 students received loans for the first time and 25 students had received loans previously.



*SC Students*

### **CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEWEST BUILDING AT WHITNEY PLAZA**

The newest building at Whitney Plaza is being constructed in Block 2 by Greg and Kristi Von Krosigk. The first of the Live/Work concepts will be a traditional looking brick building featuring many of the designs of historic downtown Sheridan. This three-story building at 145 North Connor Street will house Whitney Benefits as the ground floor tenant, Armstrong Design Studio on the second floor, and a private residence on the third floor. Construction began in June and is set to be completed early in 2010.

As part of Whitney Benefits dedication to building our community, the infrastructure of Whitney Plaza was completed just east of downtown Sheridan on the historic parade grounds, between Grinnell Avenue and Brundage Street in November 2008. This previous industrial area is now a growing development that will combine retail, office, live/work and residential uses, all within our beautiful Sheridan downtown setting. Whitney Benefits extended the trail system throughout the development, planted trees to provide shade along the paths, and installed park benches and bicycle racks to encourage pedestrian and bicycle travel.



*145 N. Connor*



*2009 Hoop Jam*

### **WHITNEY PLAZA HOSTS WYOMING REHAB HOOP JAM**

Whitney Plaza hosted the 9th Annual Wyoming Rehab Hoop Jam. This three on three basketball tournament was played by 186 teams from all across Wyoming & Montana. Players aged from 7 to 50+. The event was a fun-filled weekend for families and the community, and the ample parking lots at Whitney Plaza and the trail along Big Goose Creek provided wonderful areas to view the continuous action. The majority of the funds raised by this event go to the athletic training program at Sheridan High School. Hoop Jam is managed by a volunteer base, and this year over 100 volunteers helped make it even better at the new site.



*East Alger Pathway*

### **ALGER PATHWAY PROJECT COMPLETED**

The City pathway system now flows continually from Kendrick Park through Whitney Commons past the Whitney Center on E. Alger Street and Broadway to the trail along the levee on Big Goose Creek. Whitney Benefits completed construction of a stretch of the trail from the levee to the Whitney Center in 2008 as part of the Whitney Plaza PUD. Whitney also installed park benches and planted ten trees along the trail that will provide shade in the years to come. Over the past six years, Whitney Benefits has planted 156 new trees. The City is currently installing a crosswalk and light at E. Alger and Broadway to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists using the trail.

### **SHERIDAN ICE OPENS SEASON WITH NEW CONCRETE FLOOR**

Sheridan Ice will celebrate its seventh season in 2009, and our skating season this year will be longer! Recent improvements at Sheridan Ice include installation of a new concrete rink floor as well as relocation of the compressors and chillers into the Thrush Garage. The work will be completed by November 15, 2009, and should allow for a longer season into April 2010. Last season nearly 34,000 people participated in activities that Sheridan Ice offered. With this additional time in the skating season, Sheridan Ice plans to extend their programs as well as offer a summer program yet to be determined. Our generous community sponsors are once again supporting Sheridan Ice's Free Open Skate programs that allow so many people to enjoy a safe, fun family activity in winter. Programs teaching the skills for skating, ice hockey and Curling will be offered throughout the season.



*Concrete floor under construction*



*Teaching them to skate*

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# **BUILDING COMMUNITY AT WHITNEY COMMONS**

## **SHERIDAN FARMER'S MARKET 2009**

Whitney Commons was again the setting for Sheridan's successful Farmer's Market sponsored by Sheridan College, Downtown Sheridan Association, Sheridan Media, and Whitney Benefits. Vendor participation spread into the parking area to accommodate truck loads of corn and cherries, and attendance topped 700 visitors per week. Every Thursday from July 23rd through September 17th, our community came to the park to enjoy live musical performances, and children enjoyed the water park while their parents shopped for locally grown meats and produce. The Sheridan College Meat and Science Program booth sold meats grown at the college, and organic produce grown and raised in their new community garden. Each week the Sr. Center booth helped highlight the growing community garden initiatives that are becoming more available in our Sheridan area. There were a variety of local vendors with produce, bread preserves and crafts as well as educational materials for children and roasted corn on the cob.



*2009 Farmers Market*

## **SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

Whitney Commons continues to provide the beautifully landscaped setting for weddings and birthday parties. Several weddings were held in the Reflective Garden and two were held in the West Park and the Amphitheatre.

Whitney Commons was the backdrop for the Wyoming March of Dimes introduction of their program, "Be A Hero to Babies" in July. The event included a free BBQ lunch as well as entertaining inflatable toys that were enjoyed by over 250 families. The "Be A Hero to Babies" program is raising funds to place neonatal travel packages in every hospital in Wyoming. Currently, Wyoming infants needing this special neonatal care are flown to Denver or Billings. The Wyoming March of Dimes travel packages will provide families with supplies they will need to make the trip on a moments notice during these critical times.



*Be a Hero to Babies*



*Park Wedding*

## **WHITNEY BENEFITS GIFTS OVER**

### **50 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER TO THE CITY OF SHERIDAN**

In 2009, Whitney Benefits gifted the City of Sheridan in excess of 50,578,211 million gallons of stored Park Reservoir water to assist in watering Sheridan's thirteen parks, pathways and greenways, including the Sheridan Recreation District Thorne-Rider Park, Oatts Baseball Complex, the Whitney soccer field at the YMCA, and the Rotary Park water was extended to cover the entire Sheridan County Fairgrounds.

## **THE SERVICE CONTINUES...WHITNEY BENEFITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Since 1927, when Whitney Benefits was created, 92 dedicated individuals have served on the Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees. These 92 Whitney Trustees have dedicated over 1,007 years of service supporting education and building our Sheridan community.

### **Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees**

C.V. Davis 1927-1947  
Alf Diefenderfer 1927-1945  
F.A. Eaton 1927-1937  
Edward P. Fitzgerald 1927-1935  
W.G. Griffen 1927-1943  
Vernon Griffith 1927-1959  
Emerson Hanson 1927-1962  
I.P. Hayes 1927-1945  
B.G. McKeen 1927-1943  
H.C. Stevens 1927-1929 & 1936-1945  
J.D. Thorn 1927-1931  
Allen Williams 1927-1934  
N.P. Yentzer 1927-1929  
E.C. Bowman 1930-1955  
Peter Kooi 1930-1935  
L.J. O'Marr 1931-1943  
J. Frank Kirkpatrick 1935-1941  
Ralph Carmichael 1936-1955  
Lawrence S. Fuller 1937-1943  
W.N. Shackelford 1942-1965  
William D. Redle 1943-1959  
O.G. Rhode 1944-1963  
Edwin Small 1944-1947

James Wolfe 1944-1959  
Dr. P.M. Schunk 1945-1945  
Jackson Bentley 1946-1953  
George Johnson 1946-1951  
Andre Zoutte 1946-1953  
Ralph Hylton 1948-1959  
Ted Kellner 1948-1952  
Hurbert O. Minick 1951-1958  
E.E. Edwards 1952-1959  
James Carroll 1954-1960  
Robert Holstedt 1954-1965  
Charles H. Kane 1956-1959  
J.W. Wilson, Jr. 1956-1961  
Clifford H. Carroll 1958-1961  
Harold Newton 1960-61 & 1972-81  
Jesse K. Beeson 1960-1967  
C.D. Calhoun 1960-1963  
W.J. Christensen 1960-1967  
William Long 1960-1975  
Dr. Peter Madsen 1960-1987  
Homer Scott, Sr. 1960-1993  
Gus Booras 1962-1965  
Henry A. Burgess 1962-1993

J. Gordon McCalister 1962-1965  
Donald Roberts 1962-1965  
Fred Kaufmann 1964-1969  
William Welch 1964-1967  
Warren Sheldon 1965-1969  
C.B. Metz 1966-1993  
Frank Panetta 1966-1972  
Joe Parker 1966-1982  
S. Watts Smyth 1966-1977  
Burton Kerns 1968-1989  
Ralph Foster 1969-1970  
George Gligorea 1970-1991  
Dorothy King 1970-2001  
**John P. Chase 1972-Present**  
W. E. Cook 1972-1991  
Dr. George Ewan 1975-1999  
Jane Schroeder 1977-1991  
N.A. Nelson, Jr. 1982-2001  
**David Withrow 1982-Present**  
David Parker 1986-1999  
Ray Johnston 1989-1994  
Waldo Forbes 1991-1999  
Tim Barnes 1992-2001

**Roy Garber 1992-Present**  
Darlene Reiter 1993-1997  
Ky Dixon 1994-1997  
Bruce Hendricks 1994-1996  
**Sam Scott 1994-Present**  
John Smith 1996-1999 & 2002-2005  
Candy Hardesty 1998-1999  
Janet Ludwig 1998-2001  
**Tom Belus 2000-Present**  
**Tom Kinnison 2000-Present**  
Gary Koltiska 2000-2003  
Tim Tarver 2000-2004  
Tom Throne 2000-2003  
**Kim Love 2001-Present**  
**Val Burgess 2002-Present**  
Mary Ellen McWilliams 2002-2005  
John Patton 2002-2002  
Dr. Sy Thicketman 2002-2002  
**Maureen Humphrys 2003-Present**  
**Peter Schoonmaker 2004-Present**  
**Samuel S. Street 2005-Present**  
**Stephen Holst 2006-Present**  
**Everett E. McGlothlin 2006-Present**

### **WHITNEY COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP**

The Whitney Community Advisory Group was created in 2004 to provide input from various community members about current Whitney projects and events. The group helps to oversee operations at Whitney Commons and Sheridan Ice. Current 2009 Community members include: Steve Carroll, David Ferries, Judy Stallman, George Mathis and Mark Demple.