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Three Endowments Totaling $3 Million Celebrate Gavin Charitable Legacy

MISSOULA - Howard Gavin Distributors was an institution, a place you could count on to have just what was needed, a place where community happened. A spirit of community ran deep in all the Gavins, and now the generosity of Howard Gavin’s daughter, Lorna “Ann” Gavin, will be celebrated through a charitable bequest of nearly $3 million for permanent endowments at the Humane Society of Western Montana, Providence Montana Health Foundation and Foundation for Community Health.

Half of Ann’s gift benefits the Humane Society of Western Montana’s Friends for Life Endowment, and has the potential to generate more than $60,000 annually for the Humane Society’s lifesaving programs and services. With the initial $1 million distribution received in 2014, the animal welfare organization can expand its training and behavior, humane education and adoption programs. These expansions will ensure the Humane Society can continue to be a leading resource for companion animals and their people in Western Montana.

“We do not receive government grants or funding from national organizations, so donors like Miss Gavin are the lifeblood of our work. Her gift is the largest we have received in 53 years, and the opportunity and stability she has created here is truly beyond measure,” notes Lora O’Connor, the Humane Society of Western Montana’s Executive Director. The final distribution to the Humane Society was received late in December 2015.

The other half of Ann’s charitable bequest was designated to provide perpetual support for rehabilitation education and services, and will be shared equally by Providence Montana Health Foundation and Foundation for Community Health, the successor organization of Community Medical Center Foundation.

Providence St. Patrick Hospital Rehabilitation Center offers both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation and therapy and combines physical, occupational and speech therapies to help patients reach full independence at home, work and in the community.

“This is the largest outright gift in the history of our Rehabilitation Center, and we are immensely thankful to receive such a transformative contribution, keenly aware that Ann’s vision and generosity will extend far beyond our Center.” said Anita Nash, Director of Rehabilitation Services for Providence St. Patrick Hospital. “We can already anticipate the impact this will have on the Missoula community and all patients who walk through our doors.”

The focus at Providence Montana Health Foundation is to support the health of our community, patients, and their families.

“What an honor to celebrate a gift of this magnitude that through Ann’s generosity will help a multitude of individuals in need of rehabilitation services,” said Fran Albrecht, Executive Director of Providence Montana Health Foundation. “Her legacy will ensure our Rehabilitation Center continues to carry out our mission of providing quality healthcare with a compassion focus and is a tribute to her incredible thoughtfulness and dedication to giving back to her community.”

MaryEllen Campbell was serving as a consultant to Community Medical Center Foundation in the early 1990s when she and Ann first had lunch and spoke about a gift to celebrate the Gavins’ legacy in the community.
"Ann had a great appreciation for quality rehabilitation care, and knew that our Foundation generated a community-wide benefit that could complement her family’s commitment to the community. It was important to her that a gift like this would honor her father by giving back to the community from which it came.” Dorcie Dvarishkis, Executive Director of Foundation for Community Health, notes “From the Foundation’s beginning, community leaders like Bill and Rosemary Gallagher, Ty Robinson and so many others who have created both health and hope through their generosity and service. Ann was one of our charter “Ty Robinson Legacy Club” members, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to fulfill the Gavin legacy with partnerships throughout the community now as Foundation for Community Health, with a mission of philanthropic support to advance healthy lives in Western Montana.”

Following Ann’s death in October 2013, attorney Andrew George ensured the estate’s settlement and supported Ann’s co-personal representatives as they delivered on Ann’s wishes. “What a rewarding and important experience this has been. It reinforces what is possible with love of a community, a strong charitable intent, prudent investing and an intentional estate plan. I hope others will feel encouraged to follow in Ann’s legacy-building footsteps.”

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**About the Humane Society of Western Montana**
The Humane Society of Western Montana is committed to *Saving Every Animal Every Time* by being a leading resource for companion animals and their people throughout Western Montana.

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**About Providence Montana Health Foundation**
The Providence Montana Health Foundation has a specific focus: to provide resources for Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula and Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson, including assisting with health care for patients, new equipment, programs and services.

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**About the Foundation for Community Health**
The mission of Foundation for Community Health is to provide philanthropic support for the advancement of healthy lives in Western Montana. Foundation for Community Health is the successor organization of Community Medical Center Foundation.

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