

## Coins for a Cause

The Downtown Safety Alliance, including the Business Improvement District, the Great Falls Police Department, NeighborWorks Great Falls, Downtown Great Falls Association, Speaking Socially and others, are sponsoring the program, *Coins for a Cause*, as an alternative to panhandling. Giving your spare change to panhandlers is only a short-term remedy that can propagate the poverty cycle and does not create a long-term solution.



Donations collected from containers set up in various downtown businesses will be given to local organizations that provide direct services and resources to people in need. For 2013, \$509.96 was presented to the Great Falls Rescue Mission; for 2014, \$522.07 was presented to the YWCA; for 2015, \$537.45 was presented to Opportunities, Inc.; for 2016, \$558.42 was presented to the Grace Home; for 2017, \$348.63 was presented to the GFPD Volunteer Program; for 2018, \$485.22 was presented to Family Promise; and for 2019, \$867.03 was presented to St. Vincent de Paul.

Material explaining the program can be found at each location, including cards donors can give to panhandlers instead of their spare change. These cards encourage panhandlers to use other alternatives for obtaining assistance by providing the contact information of local direct service organizations, such as the Salvation Army and the Great Falls Rescue Mission.

Donating **your** spare change to Coins for a Cause will help curb panhandling, support local organizations, and provide assistance to those in need. These changes will help make our downtown safer and more vibrant for everyone who lives, works, plays or visits here.

The Great Falls Business Improvement District (BID) is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 and therefore your donation may be tax deductible. Your donation will help make a real change in someone's life.

Donation containers can be found at the following downtown businesses, as well as several outdoor boxes located in the 400 & 500 blocks of Central Ave:

- Dragonfly Dry Goods 504 Central Ave
- BID/DGFA 318 Central Ave
- NeighborWorks Great Falls 509 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S
- Mountain Title 325 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N
- Taco Del Sol 16 6<sup>th</sup> St S
- Great Harvest 515 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N
- Feather Your Nest 311 Central Ave
- Belles & Lace 320 Central Ave
- State Farm 17 2<sup>nd</sup> St S
- Kaufman's 411 Central Ave
- Brighten Up Shop 618 Central Ave
- Celtic Cowboy 116 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S
- Crooked Tree 501 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N
- GF Lumber 310 6<sup>th</sup> St S
- O'Haire Motor Inn 17 7<sup>th</sup> St S
- Hi-Line Climbing Center 608 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S
- Enbär 8 5<sup>th</sup> Street S
- The Chop Shop 7 5<sup>th</sup> Street N
- Blends Copy Shop 11 5<sup>th</sup> Street N

To find out more about the program, schedule an informational session, or learn how you can host a donation jar, contact:

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