Press Release
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Long-term Recovery Committee Formed to Support County Response to COVID-19

- **Blaine County community leaders have joined to create a Long Term Recovery team to develop a long-term recovery plan and coordinate local resources in response to the COVID crisis**
- **Recovery focus includes economic, physical health and medical services, mental and spiritual health, food resources, and social cohesion**
- **The Committee will create a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) to connect resources to community members, especially those most in need**
- **The Committee includes leaders from government, non-profit, business, and faith-based communities**

*Ketchum, Idaho* -- Leaders from government, non-profit, business, and faith-based communities have created a Long-term Recovery Committee (LTRC) for Blaine County. The LTRC will coordinate efforts to assist those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic disruptions.

The Committee will identify and prioritize challenges facing the community’s recovery, and surface and help advance solutions and access resources to address those needs. The LTRC will help to coordinate resources, information and volunteers and connect them with those in need, prioritizing the most impacted members of our community. By providing up to date, accurate, and reliable information to the community, the LTRC will reduce key barriers to effective recovery. With a high per capita rate of infection and the drastic impact on local business and individuals in the community, crafting effective response tools and strategies is a top priority for the community.

“As we work through the current situation and move into the recovery from the COVID pandemic, the creation of the Long-term Recovery Committee is vital to making sure we have a coordinated response to recovery. It will serve as a clearing house to validate and coordinate private donations, existing non-profits and governmental support to those affected,” said Chris Corwin, Blaine County Disaster Services Coordinator.

To provide these resources, the Committee is creating a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC), a bi-lingual, web-based resource where public and private organizations can identify assistance available to those affected by disaster with specific information on how individuals and organizations can apply for help. The LTRC Steering Committee includes Aimée Christensen of Sun Valley Institute, Scott Fortner of Visit Sun Valley, Sally Gillespie of Spur Foundation, Harry Griffith of Sun Valley Economic Development and Mike Higgs of Blaine County Chaplaincy.
“Our community is fortunate to have dedicated community leaders coming together to maximize results,” said SVI founder, Aimée Christensen, who is helping coordinate the effort.
“Coordination among organizations will enable us to support a rapid, effective recovery to this crisis.”

LTRC members include: Mike Higgs of the Blaine County Chaplaincy; Chris Corwin of the Blaine County Disaster Services; Jim Keating of the Blaine County Recreation District; Laurie Strand of the Blaine County School District and 5B Suicide Prevention Alliance; Mike McKenna of the The Chamber - Hailey & Wood River Valley; Tammy Davis of the Crisis Hotline; Sharon Patterson-Grant of EcoEdge; Lindsay Molineaux of the Environmental Resource Center; Mary Fauth; Carol Waller of Fly Sun Valley Alliance; Lisa Emerick and Steve Guthrie of Friedman Memorial Airport; Lynea Petty of The Hunger Coalition; Christina Cernansky and Brittany Shipley of NAMI; Herbert Romero of PROJECT.O.O.L.S & PARTNERS & NAMI; Rusty Devereaux and Lorna Hoopes of The Red Cross; Erin Pfaeffle of St. Luke’s Wood River Medical Center; Sally Gillespie of Spur Community Foundation; Harry Griffith of Sun Valley Economic Development; Aimée Christensen and Wendolyn Holland of the Sun Valley Institute; Sarah Busdon of the University of Idaho Extension; Scott Fortner of Visit Sun Valley; Stacy McLaughlin of the West Magic Fire District; and Jason Shearer of Wood River Community YMCA.

About the Long Term Recovery Committee

Blaine County, Idaho community leaders have joined to create a Long Term Recovery Committee to support effective and rapid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee includes representatives from government, non-profit, business, and faith-based organizations. The Committee identifies and prioritizes challenges facing the community’s recovery, and surfaces solutions to address those needs. As a first action, the Committee is setting up a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) to connect information resources (economic, physical and mental health, spiritual/faith), to community organizations and individuals, especially those most in need. By providing up to date, accurate, and reliable information to the community, the LTRC will reduce and eliminate key barriers to effective recovery.
Blaine County Long Term Recovery Committee
Proposal For Assistance
April 8, 2020

Introduction
As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis affecting our community, Blaine County’s Disaster Services Coordinator and community leaders have launched a Long Term Recovery Committee, with its first job to build a Multi-Agency Resource Center to serve our community at this critical time. We expect the investment in these structures to serve our community in years following our current crisis, as this isn’t the first major challenge to our community (fires, floods), nor will it be our last. Creating collaborative responses, resources and relationships is key to ensuring a more prosperous, healthy and resilient future for Blaine County.

Recovery Support
1. Long Term Recovery Committee
The Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) is modeled on disaster recovery best practices as a cooperative body of representatives from government, business and faith-based, non-profit, and other organizations working within the community to bring services to impacted individuals and families. Sun Valley Institute (SVI) is the current coordinator of the Blaine County’s LTRC, which includes approximately three dozen representatives of diverse community organizations and a Steering Committee of Scott Fortner of Visit Sun Valley, Sally Gillespie of Spur Foundation, Harry Griffith of Sun Valley Economic Development, and Mike Higgs of Blaine County Chaplaincy. The LTRC enables timely sharing of needs and resources, and collaborative, non-duplicative action to connect solutions to immediate needs, while coordinating a long-term recovery strategy toward the most efficient and equitable outcomes.

2. Multi-Agency Resource Center
The first job of the LTRC is to stand up a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC), often established in the wake of disaster by organizations like the Red Cross with partners to gather resources under one roof. MARCs traditionally exist as a physical office with face-to-face service provision, but in this case, the LTRC is building a virtual MARC, with resources gathered all in one place. MARC information will be provided in English and Spanish and include recovery resources for: economic support, physical and mental health, spiritual and faith-based, youth needs, general philanthropy, and more. In addition to financial resources and services, the MARC will help match volunteers and paid labor to needs.

Funding Request
Given the priority project of establishing an online MARC for our community, we request funding of $5,000 towards MARC website development and operations (website updates and maintenance) as well as associated LTRC staff support. (For 2020 calendar year). Contact: Aimée Christensen, LTRC Steering Committee, aimee@sunvalleyinstitute.org, 208-721-8619.