

Coins for a Cause

The Downtown Safety Alliance, including NeighborWorks Great Falls, the Great Falls Police Department, the Business Improvement District, 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; and for 2018, \$485.22 was presented to Family Promise.

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.

Your tax-deductible contribution, made out to the GF Business Improvement District, the fiscal sponsor, 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 1st Ave S
- Mountain Title 325 1st Ave N
- Gallery 16 600 Central Ave
- Taco Del Sol 16 6th St S
- Great Harvest 515 1st Ave N
- Feather Your Nest 311 Central Ave
- Belles & Lace 320 Central Ave
- State Farm 17 2nd St S
- Kaufman's 411 Central Ave
- Brighten Up Shop 618 Central Ave
- Celtic Cowboy 116 1st Ave S
- Crooked Tree 501 1st Ave N
- Cassiopeia Books 721 Central Ave
- O'Haire Motor Inn 17 7th St S
- Hi-Line Climbing Center 608 1st Ave S
- Enbär 8 5th Street S
- The Chop Shop 7 5th Street N
- Blends Copy Shop 11 5th Street N

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

Carol Bronson
NeighborWorks Great Falls
(406) 216-3526
cbronson@nwgf.org

Joan Redeem
Great Falls Business Improvement District
(406) 727-5430
info@greatfallsbid.com