

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Thomas".

**Bryan Thomas**

2022 Meridian Trust North Star Foundation President

## BUILDING A FOUNDATION

The Meridian Trust North Star Foundation was established in 2018. The goals for the Foundation were simple and straightforward: ensure no child-student goes without meals at home or school; assist veterans and their families; and support nonprofits in our communities with our time and our resources.

The Foundation has checked all those boxes and more. The 2022 Flags for Heroes annual campaign raised over \$24,000. The North Star Foundation honored three Navy veterans: Roy Cook (9-year Navy veteran), Ed Galavotti (22-year Navy veteran) and Cheryl Koski (40-year Navy veteran). Donations of \$2,000 were made to the Lone Sailor statue and the American Legion Wellington Post 176.



The Foundation also honored the First Lady of Wyoming, Jennie Gordon, for her creation and efforts with the Wyoming Hunger Initiative. The Hunger Initiative was launched in 2018 and the following programs were created to support food insecurity: Hunger Initiative Grants; Food from the Field; Food from the Farm + Ranch; Wyoming Angel Accounts; and the Wyoming Champions Circle. In 2022, the Meridian Trust North Star Foundation was delighted to donate over \$18,000 in food insecurity initiatives.

For 18 years we've assisted community members with their heating bills through our Heat Energy Assistance Trust (HEAT) program. This year the North Star Foundation assisted 48 families with donations totaling almost \$12,000. Also in 2022, the North Star Foundation made donations to various non-profits including the Cheyenne Animal Shelter, Family Promise, Friday Food Bag, Scottsbluff Volunteer Center, Wellington Colorado Food Bank, the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, and many others just to name a few.

In 2022, the North Star Foundation pioneered the Childcare Initiative. The costs of childcare can be the most significant expense for families, particularly when a parent is starting a new job, has an additional child entering day care, or while attending school. The Meridian Trust North Star Foundation established this program to assist families to take the edge off the first month of childcare where there is a change in employment, or a parent is attending school. The initiative kicked off in late 2022 and in just a few short months, the North Star Foundation donated almost \$5,000 to families in the Cheyenne community.

Lastly, as I close out my tenure as President of the Foundation, I want to thank the Board of Directors for all their hard work, the various volunteers that gave their time and energy in supporting the North Star events, and to those in the community for supporting our causes. Our work will continue to move forward, and we will continue to be a beacon of light, just like the North Star itself, in finding ways to improve the communities we serve.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Bryan Thomas**  
President



**Joani Hafner**  
Treasurer



**Jennifer Kost**  
Secretary



**Kim Withers**  
Director



**Adele Gardner**  
Director



## BECOME A FOUNDATION MEMBER

Make a difference in deserving people's lives, by becoming a valued member/donor of the North Star Foundation.

By making a small donation of just \$5 or more, you'll help provide assistance to those truly in need. Your donation feeds at-risk children and seniors in our communities; provides housing to veterans; supports those who don't have the resources to provide for their families; and supports educational opportunities in the communities we serve.

*The Meridian Trust North Star Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your contribution may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor to determine how this important contribution may help you. The Meridian Trust North Star Foundation's EIN number is 83-2331559.*



NorthStarFoundation.com



## 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

### 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS

Individual Donations	\$1,543
Flags for Heroes	\$27,064
Meridian Trust FCU	\$20,000

### LESS EXPENSES

Card Processing Monthly Fees	\$427
Childcare Brochures	\$165
Secretary of State	\$27
Flags for Heroes	\$9,868

### LESS NORTH STAR DONATIONS

HEAT Payments	\$13,796
Childcare Initiative	\$4,840
Scholarships	\$4,750
Family Promise	\$500
Gardiner Food Pantry	\$525
Wyoming Hunger Initiative	\$12,000
Wellington Food Pantry	\$2,000
Cheyenne Subvets	\$2,000
Alliance Public Schools	\$2,000
Scottsbluff PupPack	\$2,000

### CURRENT CASH BALANCE

**\$ 19,153**