As Rocky puts it, "I started my life in the country when I worked at that ranch when I was 13 years old. I later worked at the Custer Ranch, but my real wild experiences were when I worked near Ingomar, MT, driving and living in a two-horse drawn buck-board wagon, pulling four sheep wagons to new grass."

Rocky worked on ranches from the age of 13, developing a deep understanding of what he calls the “Montana Ethic” – that authentic set of shared values that places importance on honesty, hard work, and willingness to help out a friend or neighbor.

As Rocky puts it, "I started my life in the country when I worked at that ranch when I was 13 years old. I later worked at the Custer Ranch, but my real wild experiences were when I worked near Ingomar, MT, driving and living in a two-horse drawn buck-board wagon, pulling four sheep wagons to new grass."

Being the hands-on guy he is, Rocky joined the board of the Montana History Foundation in 2004. Over the next two decades he helped set our direction and our priorities.

Rocky insists, "One of the most important things we could do was to record the stories of our elders." The reality is, without these stories, we lose our heritage. We lose the magic of Montana.

Cover image: Bud Bruno stands in front of the remains of the family barn that his father built in the 1920s along the Rocky Mountain Front. Bruno was by interviewed by Candi Zion as part of an oral history project funded by MHF in 2018.
Thank you Rocky and all of our donors!
Your gifts help us preserve Montana history.

Rocky quickly got to work. He and his beloved wife, Marilyn, created the Rockwood and Marilyn Brown Endowment, which makes oral history projects in our grant program possible.

It’s not just Rocky that’s making this possible. He’s inspiring others to help, as well.

Thanks to Rocky and Marilyn, and caring supporters like you, the voices of our Montana elders will be preserved for generations to come.

*Three descendents of Lewistown settler Mose LaTray were interviewed by Candi Zion for a 2020 oral history project on Central Montana Métis.*
Fiscal Year 2020

Net Assets 2019 & 2020

Grants & Contributions 57%
Investments 1%
Rent 16%
Management Fees 3%
Royalties 23%

FY 2020 Revenue
$962,975

Program 77%
Fundraising 6%
Administration 17%

FY 2020 Expenses
$849,169

Grants & Contributions
Investments
Rent
Management Fees
Royalties

2019
$7,177,001

2020
$7,736,805

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What a Difference You've Made
Our grant program grows!

Because of you, critical funds for community-based history projects are fulfilling the need across Montana.

In 2020 you helped fund:

$164,000 in grants for 29 projects in 27 communities.

With your continued support, we're building a lasting legacy of Montana history, and preserving it for future generations.

At right, the exterior of the Historic Stark Schoolhouse in the Nine Mile Valley was repaired and then repainted with colors similar to those used when it was originally built in 1915. The schoolhouse now serves as a community center for hundreds of families.

At right, restoration work is done on a Star of David window that was originally handcrafted in 1901. The window was salvaged when the ASARCO smelter in East Helena was demolished.

At left, recordings are taken for the Crow language dictionary and app. An MHF grant helped create the most extensive vocabulary set ever preserved of the Crow language. The app is available on Apple and Android devices.

You can find the full list of grant projects at mthistory.org
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Montana History Thrives*

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