

**Diane Harrop**  
**Board Member**  
**Wyoming Community Foundation**

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I am not a native of Wyoming. I was born and raised elsewhere, but I moved to Wyoming in 1976, knowing instantly that nowhere else would ever be home. My husband and I owned and operated our Wyoming State Quality Award-winning business—R-D Pharmacy & Books—from 1979 to 2001. Now self-employed as a consultant, facilitator and freelance writer, I specialize in work with nonprofit organizations and small businesses that find themselves in times of crisis or transition. I am still gaining valuable experience as a member of the Wyoming Community Foundation's statewide board and serve as Distribution Committee chair.

My college degree from the University of Kansas certified me to teach Debate, Speech, Communications, and English at the high school level. I taught these subjects for a short time in the Kansas City area before moving to Wyoming, where careers for women are more often creatively constructed than found fully formed. I work mostly as a bookseller in our business, but I often find my outside activities more rewarding. I've written monthly op-ed columns for Wyoming's only state-wide newspaper, composed a lot of grant narratives, and held seats on regional, state-wide, and local governmental and nonprofit boards focusing on fields as diverse as education, bookselling, hospital management, economic development and the arts.

I have served as both Mayor and Council Member for the City of Douglas. I was the first woman ever elected to the Douglas City Council and was integrally involved in decision-making at a time when we faced many serious internal community challenges. The improvements made during my six years in local elected office resulted in Douglas, Wyoming, twice being named one of the 100 Best Small Towns in America.

Now, more than ever, I believe our best hopes for positive and necessary social, educational, and political change will be largely rooted in the nonprofit sector. Unencumbered by the need to placate extremists, appeal to mass-market popular opinion, or pander to narrow special-interest lobbies; groups like the Wyoming Community Foundation and the Aspen Institute are free to intelligently assess problems, formulate innovative solutions, work cooperatively with others who share similar goals; and expend financial and human resources in ways that improve systems and effectively empower people. What could possibly be more important—or more fun?