

## Thomas Cote

### *Organizer*

### **Beacon Community Foundation (Daniels County, Montana)**

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Thomas D. Cote is Branch Manager of the IB Wealth Management Group located in five bank branches in Northeast Montana. He currently holds his Series 3, 7, 24, 63 and 65 securities licenses, life and disability license, and is a certified public accountant. Tom spends his time traveling between Scobey, MT and Havre, MT (500 mile round trip per week) helping clients set realistic financial goals utilizing sound budgeting and investment strategies. Tom's current project is writing a software program that provides solutions for the affluent to pay for their college bound children's education.

In 1994, Tom wrote a grant that was offered through the Montana Community Foundation (MCF) as part of the Ford Foundation Rural Initiative Program to promote the viability and stability of rural communities. From the MCF grant, the Beacon Community Foundation (BCF) was born. BCF has seen a tremendous success in building their "community savings account" (permanent endowment). The unique fundraising activities have included the "Paper-thon" and the "Radio-thon" that resulted in raising the match requirement of the \$114,000 grant received from MCF. There are currently 11 endowments established under BCF amounting to over \$400,000 and provide scholarships and grants to community organizations on an annual basis. Future gifts in the form of life insurance, charitable remainder trusts and bequests have grown to over \$700,000.

Tom has written grants for a number schools and hospitals throughout Northeast Montana to secure funding for interactive television equipment. The amount of grants have totaled over \$2 million dollars, and as a result, rural communities are gaining access to University courses, expanding curriculums, and gaining access to needed healthcare through the use of tele-medicine.

Tom was born and raised in the rural community of Glasgow, Montana, (population 3,500). He now calls Scobey, Montana home with a population of 1,200 people. Tom graduated from Montana State University, Bozeman in 1981 with a B.A. in Accounting. Prior to moving to the financial services industry, he worked for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, now KPMG as a CPA in Billings, Montana. An opportunity to farm with his father-in-law brought him back to Northeast Montana where he farmed and ranched while still doing taxes in the winter months. In 1992, Tom and his family moved to Scobey and he has been providing financial consulting services through LPL Financial Services.

Tom and his wife Karen have three children and have recently become grandparents to baby Theodore Nicholas. Their two sons, Todd (wife Jamie) and Casey, attend University of Montana, Missoula and their daughter Macinzie is a junior at Scobey High School. Tom's hobbies consist of golf, archery hunting for the elusive Wapiti, and fishing whenever he has time.