

The Butte Literacy Program receives 2022 Gianforte Family Foundation Grant

The Butte Literacy Program received a \$5,000 grant and an additional matching grant for \$5,000 from the Gianforte Family Foundation. The grants will be used to support staffing and operations for the program.

The Foundation helps Montana organizations that improve education to “equip others with the means to improve their lives and create lasting change,” and that is exactly what The Butte Literacy Program does. Helping adults earn their high school diplomas opens doors to career and technical training programs, college, or the military, and that changes lives.

Tenney Hammond, coordinator of The Butte Literacy Program, said, “The generosity of the Gianforte Family Foundation has allowed us to grow. We have enrolled over 160 students, 26 of whom have graduated. Our students have taken a total of 192 HiSET exams with a success rate of 97.9%. Eight of our graduates have been accepted to Montana Tech/Highlands College thanks to help from Brian Williams and Abby Parnell, admissions counselors who have facilitated the application process, and Angela Stillwagon who has helped with the FAFSA. One graduate enlisted in the Army. For two graduates, earning their high school diplomas has led to improved employment. The Gianforte Family Foundation has given us three years of support that has helped us make all of this happen.”

The Butte Literacy Program relies on volunteer tutors who work with adults to help them earn their high school equivalency diplomas by taking the five HiSET exams. Anyone interested in

becoming a tutor should call the program office at 406-723-7905 or email

butteliteracy@gmail.com.