In 2017, Summer Programs Uniting Ranch and Rodeo sponsored by the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, did an exceptional job of bringing together the local and seasonal youth of Dubois and the Upper Wind River Area for yet another summer season. Community engagement, and learning the life skills of personal leadership, entrepreneurship and self-awareness were the foci of this program, along with partnership with various other groups and individuals throughout the community.

Components of this program included the Young Entrepreneurs Program, Absaroka Ranch Camp and the Celebration of Learning Trip at the end of the summer. We were also able to leverage dollars from local businesses to support new programs. Leadership Academy took 10 youth through a week of learning about entrepreneurship and youth leadership, and ended with a whitewater rafting trip in Jackson Hole, WY. We were also able to utilize funds from a Wells Fargo initiative with Boys & Girls Clubs across the state to teach financial literacy through the existing SPURR program.

Twenty-seven local and seasonal youth participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) Friday Night Rodeo Concessions Snack Shack. Learning about small business operations, and living our motto – clean, calm, customer service – allowed our Club kids to expand their resumes and develop real world work experience. Junior staff, Jessie & Case, learned the life-cycle of a weekly operated business, with regular sanitation, inventory and ordering with a food service company. All youth were given the opportunity to problem-solve through various issues from marketing new offerings, to streamlining efficient operations and working together in a team to present concessions in a professional manner.

With funds disbursed by the Foundation, 15 youth stayed at a residential ranch program for 4 days and 3 nights at Absaroka Ranch Camp. A residential program provides the opportunity to live harmoniously with peers, be personally responsible for self in a community setting, and practice table manners and graciousness at every meal. Youth learned about horsemanship, leadership, and self-awareness at the camp through various team-building and life skills challenges throughout the week.

Eleven youth earned the opportunity to participate in the Celebration of Learning Trip. This excursion, in part funded by monies raised throughout the 2017 Rodeo season, served as a reward for working at least 5 rodeos, completing 6 community service projects, and 4 club improvement projects. The trip to Salt Lake City consisted of an educational youth media project with Spyhop Productions (a local youth media group), as well as recreational programs to Boondocks Fun Center and Lagoon Amusement Park. Interested in the growth of YEP and the opportunities it provides, this summer was incredibly competitive to earn a space on the trip. Members were dedicated to providing outstanding service projects to both the Club and throughout the community in order to participate. Highlights included bi-weekly trips to Warm Valley Lodge to entertain residents, a dog wash in partnership with St. Thomas and the Western Fremont County Humane Society, food bank delivery service to the High Country
Senior Citizens Center, helping with the Chance Phelps Foundation Obstacle Course, among assistance with other various events throughout town.

Due to the massive success of this program, BGCD was able to utilize profit from the SPURR program to offset additional administrative and operational costs of running the entire organization, as reflected in the attached budget.

Unused monies in the amount of $1886.00 refunded to St. Thomas in 2018 will be utilized to create a fund to be used at St. Thomas’ discretion. Thank you for your partnership and offering the opportunities to reach throughout the community through our various and important programs.