The Foundation’s budget is based on a 4% draw of a 12-quarter rolling average of the investments held with Ferguson Wellman. The total expenses for 2018 were $3,210,144.

### 2018 Foundation Expenses

- **Grants**: $2,500,452.00 (78%)
- **Salaries/Benefits**: $272,100.00 (8%)
- **Foundation Operations**: $99,788.00 (3%)
- **Investment Management Fees**: $337,804 (11%)

3/4 of the Foundation budget went out in grants and a majority of those grants went to mission or ministry!

### How were the grant dollars distributed?

- **Parish Grants**: $1,122,636 (45%)
- **Bishop/Ex Director Grants**: $72,526 (3%)
- **Fresh Expressions**: $110,546 (4%)
- **Matching Grants**: $55,160 (2%)
- **Block Grant**: $1,139,584 (46%)

Funding for Fresh Expressions gave way to 12 new pioneer/scouts around the Diocese.
Dear Wyoming Episcopalians:

One year ago, I was able to report to you the extraordinary return-on-investment performance of 15.99% for 2017. Now I am saddled with reporting to you the sad, annual return of (5.60%) for 2018. The main contributor to that negative return was the (9.20%) performance of our portfolio for the fourth quarter of 2018. When compared to the negative return of (6.59%) of the S&P 500 for 2018, we actually fared the 2018 market downturn pretty well.

I mention these contrasting returns to remind you all that we, the staff and Directors of your Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, view our management of financial assets with a very long lens. The Dow Jones Average was 1,487 at the beginning of 1923. It has averaged above 26,000 in these first months of 2019. That represents an annual rate of return of 12.25%. As the market goes up and down, please remember that we are managing your Foundation portfolio as if it were a toddler with a long, long future ahead of her. Our average annual rate of return since we began our partnership with Ferguson Wellman in June of 2011 is 7%, so we do look for growth moving forward. But we are earning slightly more than inflation plus investment fees plus our annual expenditure in grants all of which add up to 6.65%.

Please review the 2018 pie charts which accompany this Annual Report. They divide into categories both our annual expenses and our 2018 grants. We achieved a milestone in 2018 by having our ratio of operations costs to the overall annual distribution from our invested assets sit at only 11%.

Our mission is “to support and inspire our congregations as we share in God’s work of ministry and outreach by raising, managing, and distributing financial resources.” All Board members participate fully in the work of one or more Committees which accomplish that work; all staff support that work by researching, preparing, accounting, communicating, ministering, and assisting. We are also committed to traveling to all parishes at least once each year to nurture our relationships, experience mission and outreach, and ensure that all parishes have the highest possible level of access to their Foundation’s grants assets. We want our churches to discern what it is God is calling them to change in their communities, then DREAM BIG. We want to help put those dreams into action, and we have a great team here to help do that, a team of which I am extremely proud.

We are passionate about serving people in need; we are committed to helping parishes grow.

Blessings to you and yours,

Press Stephens
2018 Was the Year of Suicide Prevention Programming Assisted in Part by Foundation Grants
by Press Stephens

At the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, our grant reporting forms ask the question: “What impact did the suicide prevention program funded by your grant have on your congregation/community?”

- “…good, basic understanding of how to help a person in mental distress decompress, and how to direct them to a health professional,” writes Susan Brewer of Sundance.
- “This grant has helped form a partnership with the hospital and school,” writes Twila Barnette of Lusk.
- “We strengthened the community network of ‘gatekeepers’ in Johnson County,” writes Rev. Doug Wasinger of Buffalo, “by introducing to each other those who have been trained, and offering them a learning event together.”
- “Community members gained knowledge of what to ask, say and do. The trainings advanced a broad realization that we are not helpless to help others,” writes Connie Ticknor of Dubois.
- “We are providing our citizens the help they need and deserve,” writes Marcy Tepper of Lander. “We have created cohesive synergies realized across human service agencies seeking to collectively address the needs of those suffering from mental illness.”
- “We have raised so much awareness in our community,” writes Lin Davenport of Gillette. “We also provided the added comfort for families to not have to clean up.”

…and then we ask in the reporting forms: “What’s next?”

- “…to continue to be a place where hurting people are accepted,” writes Carole Buckingham from Kaycee;
- “We have begun the process of a Crisis Response Team which will respond not only to suicide attempts and completions, but other trauma situations,” writes Felicia Smith of Douglas;
- “we intend to continue to distribute anti-bullying material which is included in the Child Safety Packets we received from the National Safety Council,” writes Dave Jones of Glenrock.

Continue, continue, continue – that is the word most used by our Episcopal churches:

- “continue this ministry…,” “we have contacted trainers…,” “…we’ll provide widow/widower support…,” “we’ll host another community program, perhaps one of the films…,” “the movie we purchased remains at the church and we plan on reshowing it yearly…,” “we will grow and expand this training to other professions and groups of people.”

A broad spectrum of people across the state have gained access to suicide prevention training due to the myriad training events hosted by dozens of Wyoming Episcopal churches. Adult and child advocacy counselors, social workers, senior citizen professionals, mental health counselors, drug experts, attorneys, teachers, security guards, school staff, police, emergency services personnel, fire fighters, medical professionals, college and university students, high school and middle school students, parents, clergy and chaplains, and community volunteers of all sorts have participated in over 36 training sessions, some of them CIT (Crisis Intervention Team)
trainings which take one week. In many instances, these professionals are brought into compliance with statutes which require them to have accomplished a certain level of suicide prevention training.

The degree to which these offerings accomplish much needed training cannot be overstated. For example, typically, the training to become a law enforcement officer is so full of necessary law enforcement details that officers only receive about 3 hours of training in mental illness at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy. CIT adds more than 40 hours of mental illness training.

One component of suicide prevention programming offered by Episcopal parishes is the screening of one or more films. “Suicide: The Ripple Effect,” is the story of Kevin Hines, who at age 19 became one of very few individuals to survive a suicidal jump off San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge. Kevin’s journey has, indeed, had a ripple effect on all who have seen the film. The experience of watching the film is a powerful admonition to stay alive, to become free from despair, to address anxiety and depression with counseling and professional care. We are not helpless to help others.