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September 28, 2021

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One Valley Community Foundation invites Gallatin County residents to join county-wide conversation about housing during A Seat at the Table 2021

Hundreds of conversations about Gallatin Valley housing challenges and solutions to take place during A Seat at the Table on October 14th.

Gallatin County, MT- In communities across Gallatin County, thousands residents will come together in small conversations on Thursday, October 14th to discuss housing challenges in our community through the second A Seat at the Table event. A Seat at the Table, hosted by the One Valley Community Foundation, is designed to generate new ideas and inspire bold solutions surrounding housing in Gallatin County.

“Through A Seat at the Table, we hope to elevate your voice as a community member. This year we are focusing our conversations on housing and affordability because we know that that is one of the most pressing topics in our community right now. You don’t need to be a housing expert to host a table or be a participant because we know that neighbors closest to challenges in our community are also often closest to solutions,” said Bridget Wilkinson, Executive Director of One Valley Community Foundation. “We want A Seat at the Table to be an approachable opportunity to come together and gather with friends, neighbors, and even strangers to discuss their experiences with housing and their ideas for addressing housing challenges.”

The goal is to engage community members from all walks of life to come together in small group settings to have meaningful conversations about the housing challenges affecting all Gallatin County residents. The topics, issues, and ideas discussed during each A Seat at the Table conversation will be based around three key questions that inspire participants to share their experiences with housing, possible solutions, and community groups who can play a role in addressing different parts of the problem.

Following each conversation, hosts and participants will be asked to fill out a short survey to learn more about their participation in this project, and their ideas for addressing local housing

challenges. These surveys will also be available in Spanish. The One Valley Community Foundation will then publicly share these outcomes with local leaders in the nonprofit sector, public and private community partners, and the community to turn ideas into action.

"The disconnect between the experiences of people grappling with housing issues and policy and funding decisions can slow down solutions. A Seat at the Table makes that connection by providing individual community members with the opportunity to relay their concerns and ideas to local leaders in the public and private sectors," said Jennifer Lammers, One Valley Board President.

A Seat at the Table is asking local community members throughout Gallatin County to host their own conversations between October 14th-31st. There will also be online and in person public tables held where anyone is welcome to attend. Conversations can be held virtually or in-person at participant's homes, offices, schools, parks or place of worship. One Valley has recorded a short host training video that provides hosts with an overview of the initiative, tips to hosting a productive conversation, and information about how to collect feedback from your conversation. To sign up to host a table or attend a public table, to view our short host training video or see our recent Regional Housing Study, please go to www.AtTheTableGV.org for more information.

About One Valley Community Foundation

Formerly known as the Bozeman Area Community Foundation, One Valley Community Foundation's mission is to connect people who care to causes that matter to build a better community. Through philanthropic services, strategic investments, and community leadership, One Valley Community Foundation helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come. The Community Foundation serves the areas of Bozeman, Big Sky, Belgrade, Manhattan, Churchill, Three Forks, and the rural areas in between. Since its inception in 1998, the Foundation has galvanized more than \$8.6 million for 200+ local nonprofit organizations. Read the [2020 Annual Report](#) and learn more at www.OneValley.org.

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