



WHITNEY BENEFITS

# Whitney Benefits An Educational Foundation Community Report 2008

## “MR WHITNEY” SCULPTURE UNVEILED

*“My estate does not belong to me. I’m only its steward: it belongs to the people and I dare not be careless with it.”* Edward A. Whitney

Mr. Edward Augustus Whitney was memorialized at Whitney Commons in November 2008 with a sculpture depicting the foundation’s namesake seated on a park bench with three children receiving old fashioned books from him. Books were part of Whitney’s life. He read widely to acquire knowledge. He regularly solicited booksellers from around the country, even the world, for particular works. His elder brother ran a bookstore. Librarians and libraries fill the Whitney family heritage. In fact, there are no fewer than five Whitney libraries throughout the United States and Canada. Whitney focused on education to the exclusion of all other interests. In his will, he declared, *“it seemed well to my mind to devote the net income of the property that I leave towards aiding the needy and deserving young men and young women in attaining, through education, such positions in life as may appeal to them as best suited to their individual needs and capacities*

Under the terms of Mr. Whitney’s Will, the principal of his estate was transferred to the corporation and invested. The net income from the investments are used for specific educational purposes. The original trustees of Whitney’s estate said that Whitney spent three decades of his life planning for his gift to the people of Sheridan County. He made extensive investigations in the eastern United States as to how

trust funds were structured for education. The last couple of years of Whitney’s life were devoted to thoughtfully revising again and again his final Will. This Will established Whitney Benefits, and carried his substantial legacy of, concern for, and service to, the peoples of Sheridan and Sheridan County onward. Through the foundation, his gift continues to touch and enrich the lives of thousands.



## WHITNEY VILLAS OPEN AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE - \$7.5 MILLION DOLLAR DONATION FROM WHITNEY BENEFITS

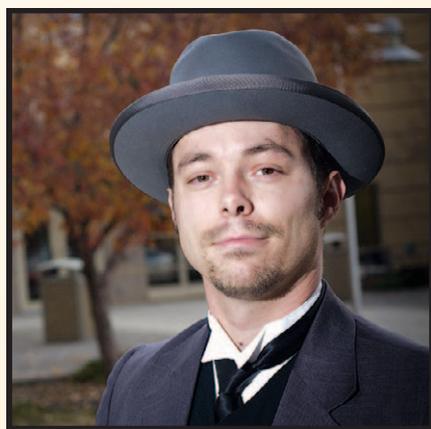


In 2007 the Whitney Benefits Board pledged \$7.5 million to Sheridan College to build 150-bed, suite style student housing units. Phase I of the housing project began with 88 beds called the Whitney Villas which opened for students in September 2008. The Whitney Lofts broke ground in late December 2008. The Whitney Lofts will add 62 beds in efficiency one bedroom units. Two of these three Loft buildings will have mixed use on their first floors. Sheridan College will use one of these first floors for a new cafe in cooperation with the food service programs. Other uses will include advanced entrepreneurial opportunities and the College’s summer Management Institute program. When completed the housing project will allow the college to increase its full-time student population by 25 percent from 246 students to 307. Nearly 70% of the jobs in Sheridan County are in industries for which Sheridan College provides training. When the units are built, they will attract out-of-area students and contribute to the state’s workforce.

Whitney Benefits will continue to work to help promote the State of Wyoming match to build the Big West Center for the Creative Economy. The Big West Center will include classrooms and labs that all Sheridan College departments can use, but primarily the Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts programs. The college will hire a director for a new entrepreneur program and that program will be housed in the center, as well. The entrepreneur program will serve as a business incubator offering meeting space, training rooms for the hospitality and culinary programs, help from experts in areas like patents and marketing, as well as technical office support.

A special ghostly appearance from Mr. Whitney appeared at the dedication and delighted the crowd. His remarks follow:

*“Good afternoon fellow citizens of Sheridan. My, how things have changed. Many of you may not know me, although I am sure several of you recognize me. My name is Edward Augustus Whitney, and I am honored to be here with you today. This is a glorious occasion. Like my ancestors who traveled from London, England in 1635 to start a new life in Massachusetts, I traveled to Sheridan in 1885 and knew this was to become my home. I immediately saw the potential that many of you visionaries continue to see today. Throughout my lifetime and beyond, I have learned several lessons from wise people. It was my dream to pass on these lessons to all of you... and from what I see today, you have learned them well. I would like to share three of those lessons. First, I learned from my father who worked hard in the flour business and then decided to open a bookstore. This invaluable lesson... **TO NEVER GIVE UP!** The second lesson I learned from my cousin, Josiah Dwight Whitney, Jr., **SET YOUR SIGHTS HIGH!** Josiah successfully climbed Mt. Whitney, and that mountain now bears his name. The last lesson is one that I have learned throughout my lifetime. I have traveled the world, partnered with wise men*



D.J. Bowman as Mr. Edward A. Whitney

*such as John Kendrick and John Loucks, and I have even been the mayor of this great town. But the most valuable lesson of all is, **TO INVEST IN EDUCATION.** My estate does not belong to me. I’m only its steward: it belongs to the people of Sheridan and I dare not be careless with it. Yes friends, what you see before you now (these Villas) is truly an investment in our future. Your future. Your grandchildren’s futures. I am proud to have been a part of this future. I implore you to never give up, continue to set your sights high, and most of all, continue to invest in education.”*

In thanks, Sheridan College presented the Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees with an original painting by local artist Mara Schasteen. Entitled “Be Still”, the beautiful oil painting captures the tranquility of the Dorothy King Reflective Garden at Whitney Commons. Schasteen is a former Whitney Benefit’s recipient.



Whitney Benefit Trustees (bottom left to right) Tom Belus, Maureen Humphreys, Roy Garber, Everett McGlothlin, Kim Love. (Back left to right) Sam Street, Tom Kinnison, D.J. Bowman (Mr. Whitney), Val Burgess

Visit us on the web: [www.whitneybenefits.org](http://www.whitneybenefits.org) (307) 674-7303

## NATIONAL SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR E. A. WHITNEY ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN AGRICULTURE CHAIR-\$1.25 MILLION DOLLARS WHITNEY BENEFITS PLUS \$1.25 MILLION DOLLARS THE STATE OF WYOMING = \$2.5 MILLION DOLLARS

Whitney Benefits presented a \$1.25 million check for the E.A. Whitney Professorship in Agriculture to Sheridan College and the University of Wyoming in September 2007. The State of Wyoming matched the grant with an additional \$1.25 million to create the E.A. Whitney Professorship in Agriculture Chair. A national search for an endowed professor is underway. The Chair will be a UW College of Agriculture faculty member and will be based at UW's Sheridan Research and Extension Center (SREC). The Chair will develop course work and research on agriculture, environment, and natural resource issues in northeastern Wyoming, to enhance usage of natural resources. The two donations will enable the college to bring a highly qualified UW professor of agriculture, who is qualified to teach upper-division classes in agroecology, for a horticultural option to a B.S. degree in agroecology.



## SHERIDAN COLLEGE NURSING PRACTICUM - \$500,000 ADDED TO 2007 DONATIONS OF \$1 MILLION DOLLARS WHITNEY BENEFITS PLUS \$1 MILLION DOLLARS THE STATE OF WYOMING = \$2.5 MILLION DOLLARS



In 2008, the Health Science Division at Sheridan College was presented a check from Whitney Benefits for \$500,000 to fund the Edward A. Whitney BSN practicum experience, which was then matched by \$500,000 from the state. This donation was for the enhancement of nursing student practica in the RN-BSN and A.D.N. programs. Dr. Janice Stephens was named the Endowed Nursing Chair faculty member in 2007. Dr. Stephens stated "This endowment will enable students to have access to experiences across the country that will enhance their education. It will do this by providing funding for housing, travel, educational, and living expenses. Because of the size of the Sheridan community some nursing specialties are not available for clinical practica. This opportunity will let students go to places where they can gain specialty exposure and increase their learning. Sheridan College completed a survey of students' thoughts regarding where they would like to go for more nursing education if they could go anywhere. There were many responses like the Mayo Clinic and New York City. Students seemed to want exposure to larger metropolitan areas where there would be more patients and more complex disease processes to learn about" The requirements for

participation in this program are: the student must be either a Sheridan or Johnson County resident, enrolled in either the RN-BSN Sheridan College/UWYO collaboration or the Sheridan College A.D.N. Nursing Program, or a recent graduate from the Sheridan College A.D.N. Nursing Program. A Nursing Practicum Advisory Board reviews applications and decides who will receive funding three times each year. This board is made up of representatives from the major healthcare facilities and professions. For further information please contact Judy McDowell at [mcdowell@sheridan.edu](mailto:mcdowell@sheridan.edu)

## WHITNEY BENEFITS DONATES LAND WORTH \$465,500 FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

In December 2007, Whitney Benefits donated land at 356 and 366 E Brundage Street valued at \$426,500 to Sheridan College to build an early childhood development center. Sheridan College formed a partnership with the City of Sheridan and Sheridan County School District #2 to form the Sheridan Economic and Educational Development Authority (SEEDA) to develop the project "Hand in Hand". Students from Sheridan College's Early Childhood Development program will help staff at the facility. Hand and Hand is "inspired" by the innovative facilities in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and other programs based on the discovery and inquiry approach to learning. Students are actively involved with guiding the learning by generating their own questions on topics and investigating them. The primary sources for student investigations come from field observations and community experts on the topic.



## STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM - \$24 MILLION LOANED TO 4,879 STUDENTS



Mr. Whitney directed the corporation to create, from its net income, a student loan program that would help provide men and women with modest financial assistance to pursue academic and vocational studies. The program began providing interest free student loans to Sheridan County residents in 1928. Since inception of the program, through June 30, 2008, the corporation has loaned **4,879** students approximately **\$24,162,961**. For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008 Whitney approved interest free loans totaling \$3,016,361.08 to 121 students; 84 students received loans for the first time and 37 students had received loans previously. For more information about the interest free student loan program, please visit [www.whitneybenefits.org](http://www.whitneybenefits.org)

## WHITNEY PLAZA COMPLETED

The Whitney Plaza Planned Use Development (PUD), located just east of downtown Sheridan on the historic parade grounds, between Grinnell Avenue and Brundage Street was completed in November 2008. This unique development will combine retail, office, live/work and residential uses, all within a downtown setting.

The live/work lots will feature buildings with the ability to live and work within the same building on one lot. Several of the live/work lots have been sold and a concept plan for ten of these lots is illustrated below. Office and commercial uses will be on the Whitney Lane side of these properties and will feature aspects appealing to commercial streetscapes and reflective of downtown Sheridan. Park Lane will be the residential side and will reflect a new urban residential neighborhood. These neighborhoods will mimic traditional neighborhood designs consistent with historic Sheridan, Wyoming. For more information on Whitney Plaza visit [www.whitneyplaza.org](http://www.whitneyplaza.org)



ROYAL WOLF DEVELOPMENT

PARK LANE NORTH ELEVATION-LOTS 1-10-BLOCK 2

WHITNEY PLAZA



ROYAL WOLF DEVELOPMENT

WHITNEY LANE NORTH ELEVATION-LOTS 1-10-BLOCK 2

WHITNEY PLAZA

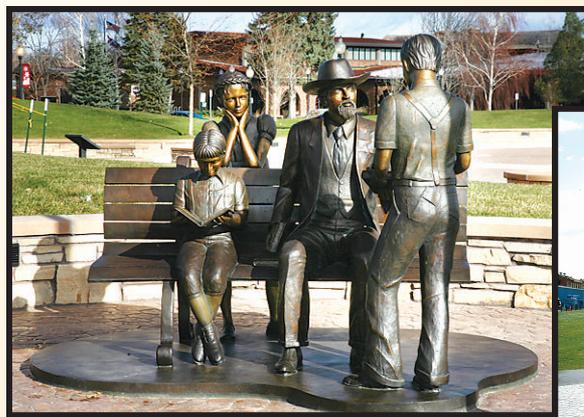
## CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

### WHITNEY COMMONS

Citizens of the community and visitors alike utilize Whitney Commons as a place to play, relax, gather, and reflect. The beautiful five-acre park was opened to the public on September 30, 2003. Whitney Benefits privately manages and maintains the park. Whitney Commons is located in the heart of Sheridan, between the Senior Center, Sheridan County YMCA, and the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library. Whitney Commons features two newly dedicated sculptures, "Mr. Whitney" by Felix Velez and "Cool Water" by D. Michael Thomas. The two artworks join "Team Roping" by Michael Flanagan. Whitney Commons also features an amphitheater, interactive water feature, plaza area, the Dorothy King Reflective Garden with a reflective pool, a labyrinth, illuminated walkways and a universally accessible playground in enriching the pleasures to be enjoyed at Whitney Commons.



*The spray ground in Whitney Commons at night*



*"Mr. Whitney" by Felix Velez*



*"Cool Water" by D. Michael Thomas*

Whitney Commons also features closed circuit cameras for online viewing and park security. Visit the web at [www.whitneybenefits.org](http://www.whitneybenefits.org).

### WHITNEY BENEFITS EXTENDS PATHWAY TO E. ALGER STREET

The Whitney Commons pathway now continues the connection to the City of Sheridan's trail system at E. Alger Street and Broadway, and continues along Alger to Big Goose Creek behind the Whitney Center. This work on the pathway extension was completed by Whitney Benefits in November 2008 with the completion of the parking lot behind the Whitney Center. Public restrooms are available for trail users in the Whitney Center building and are accessible from the pathway.



*Pathway at Goose Creek and East Alger*

### SHERIDAN FARMERS MARKET 2008

Whitney Commons, for the second year, hosted the Sheridan Farmers Market. Shoppers and vendors agree that Whitney Commons makes a beautiful setting and the free parking in the nearby Sheridan Senior Center was a real plus during this year's construction project on Brooks and Alger.

Children enjoyed the park and running through the water fountains, while parents shopped for local produce, crafts, baked goods, coffee, and a variety of other goods. Attendance increased significantly and customers stayed longer to enjoy the surroundings. There were live musical performances almost every week, a local service group HYPE (Helping Young Professionals Engage) cooked bratwursts and produce made and grown by the Sheridan College Meat and Science Program, and Sheridan College had agricultural educational materials for children to color or draw. Sheridan Farmers Market was sponsored by Sheridan College, Downtown Sheridan Association, The Senior Center and Whitney Benefits.



*Farmers Market Activities*



*The Wyoming National Guard 67th Army Band*

### POWDER RIVER LET'R BUCK CELEBRATION HONORING OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Whitney Commons was host to the first annual "Powder River Let'r Buck Celebration" honoring our service men and women on July 1, 2008. The Wyoming National Guard 67th Army Band performed each branch of the armed services military song after a brief history of each division was read. A crowd of 200 enjoyed the free music and the BBQ lunch prepared by the students of the Wyoming Culinary Art Institute. Whitney Benefits along with the City of Sheridan, Sheridan Media, First Federal Savings Bank, First Interstate Bank, Sheridan State Bank, Security State bank, Bank of Sheridan, Cowboy State Bank, and the Wyoming Culinary Institute sponsored the free event.

### SHERIDAN ICE SERVES OVER 34,000

Sheridan Ice is celebrating its sixth season in 2008. Our community rink features an NHL-size outdoor refrigerated ice complex that hosts many recreational and educational events such as figure skating, family skate nights, hockey, curling and a variety of other community skating activities. Last season nearly 34,000 people participated in activities that Sheridan Ice offered. Sheridan Ice is sponsored and supported by members of the Sheridan Community. Free open skate & curling for the 2008/2009 season has been generously provided by the following sponsors: GOLD Level sponsors: First Interstate Bank, Fry Construction, Big Horn Mountain Radio Network, Pearl Development, Pinnacle Gas Services, Sheridan Physical Therapy, First Federal Savings Bank, Sheridan College, Wells Fargo Bank, North Fork Partners, Normative Services. SILVER Level sponsors: ERA Carroll Realty, Wyoming Electric, Wright Brothers, Big Horn Asphalt and More/TTT Sales, Sheridan Media, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 322, Direct Electric, KADD Architecture, Jackson Electric, D.A. Davidson, Farmer's Co-op. Our BRONZE Level sponsors support the youth programs: Randall Engineering Surveying, Design Works, Sheridan Women's Health, Buckley Construction, HUB - BHJ Insurance Inc, City of Sheridan, Engineering Inc., A Plus Plumbers, Mullinax, Alpine Climate Control, All B Excavating Company, Bruce Burns, Armstrong Design Studio, Fletcher Construction, ACT, JBD Inc., L&S Contractors, Parker Glass, Rucki & Marshall, Sheridan Motors and, Holly Cow Ranch. Very special thanks to these companies for their support.

This year Sheridan Ice has additional live cameras featuring the action on the rink. KENCO Security installed 4 cameras surrounding the rink that are viewable from our website at [www.sheridanice.org](http://www.sheridanice.org). Sheridan Ice also offers the sport of curling in its programming. Curling is a team sport played on a rectangular sheet of prepared ice, by two teams of four players, each using heavy polished granite stones which slide down the ice towards a target area called the house. Points are scored for the number of stones that a team has closer to the center of the target than the closest of the other team's stones.

For more information including ice schedules, or to visit the 24-hour online closed circuit webcams, visit [www.sheridanice.org](http://www.sheridanice.org) or call the rink at 674-9423.



*All ages enjoyed the free skating at the 2008-09 Grand Opening*



Whitney Trustees at dedication of Mr. Whitney (left to right) Sam Scott, Mary Ellen McWilliams, John Smith, Dippy King, Everett McGlothlin, Tim Barnes, Dr. George Ewan, Ky Dixon, Kim Love, Roy Garber, Janet Ludwig, Maureen Humphrys, Pete Schoonmaker, Tom Belus, Tom Kinnison, and artist Felix Velez.

## The Service Continues.....

### Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees

*"The Corporation trustees, acting as such, shall receive no pay for their services, as it seems to me that the selection and honor of serving on such a board for such purpose would, with the opportunity given to benefit the youth of their own county, attract men of ability and influence who would find the work a labor of love, so to speak, and would willingly fill the office of advisors and directors of the paid working officials into whose hands they commit the actual working out of their plans and instructions."*

E.A. Whitney

Whitney Trustees have devoted countless volunteer hours to carry out the provisions in The Last Will and Testament of Edward A. Whitney. Since 1927, when Whitney Benefits was created, 92 dedicated individuals have served on the Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees. All together, Whitney Trustees, to date have dedicated over 994 years of service to the Sheridan community

#### WHITNEY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 1927- 2008

C.V. Davis	1927-1947	Gus Booras	1962-1965	Tim Barnes	1992-2001
Alf Diefenderfer	1927-1945	Henry A. Burgess	1962-1993	* Roy Garber	1992-Present
F.A. Eaton	1927-1937	J. Gordon McCalister	1962-1965	Darlene Reiter	1993-1997
Edward P. Fitzgerald	1927-1935	Donald Roberts	1962-1965	Ky Dixon	1994-1997
W.G. Griffen	1927-1943	Fred Kaufmann	1964-1969	Bruce Hendricks	1994-1996
Vernon Griffith	1927-1959	William Welch	1964-1967	* Sam Scott	1994-Present
Emerson Hanson	1927-1962	Warren Sheldon	1965-1969	John Smith	1996-1999 & 2002-2005
I.P. Hayes	1927-1945	C.B. Metz	1966-1993	Candy Hardesty	1998-1999
B.G. McKeen	1927-1943	Frank Panetta	1966-1972	Janet Ludwig	1998-2001
H.C. Stevens	1927-1929 & 1936-1945	Joe Parker	1966-1982	* Tom Belus	2000-Present
J.D. Thorn	1927-1931	S. Watts Smyth	1966-1977	* Tom Kinnison	2000-Present
Allen Williams	1927-1934	Burton Kerns	1968-1989	Gary Koltiska	2000-2003
N.P. Yentzer	1927-1929	Ralph Foster	1969-1970	Tim Tarver	2000-2004
E.C. Bowman	1930-1955	George Gligorea	1970-1991	Tom Throne	2000-2003
Peter Kooi	1930-1935	Dorothy King	1970-2001	* Kim Love	2001-Present
L.J. O'Marr	1931-1943	* John P. Chase	1972-Present	* Val Burgess	2002-Present
J. Frank Kirkpatrick	1935-1941	W. E. Cook	1972-1991	Mary Ellen McWilliams	2002-2005
Ralph Carmichael	1936-1955	Dr. George Ewan	1975-1999	John Patton	2002-2002
Lawrence S. Fuller	1937-1943	Jane Schroeder	1977-1991	Dr. Sy Thickman	2002-2002
W.N. Shackelford	1942-1965	N.A. Nelson, Jr.	1982-2001	* Maureen Humphrys	2003-Present
William D. Redle	1943-1959	* David Withrow	1982-Present	* Peter Schoonmaker	2004-Present
O.G. Rhode	1944-1963	David Parker	1986-1999	* Samuel S. Street	2005-Present
Edwin Small	1944-1947	Ray Johnston	1989-1994	* Stephen Holst	2006-Present
James Wolfe	1944-1959	Waldo Forbes	1991-1999	* Everett E. McGlothlin	2006-Present
Dr. P.M. Schunk	1945-1945				
Jackson Bentley	1946-1953				
George Johnson	1946-1951				
Andre Zoutte	1946-1953				
Ralph Hylton	1948-1959				
Ted Kellner	1948-1952				
Hurbert O. Minick	1951-1958				
E.E. Edwards	1952-1959				
James Carroll	1954-1960				
Robert Holstedt	1954-1965				
Charles H. Kane	1956-1959				
J.W. Wilson, Jr.	1956-1961				
Clifford H. Carroll	1958-1961				
Harold Newton	1960-1961 & 1972-1981				
Jesse K. Beeson	1960-1967				
C.D. Calhoun	1960-1963				
W.J. Christensen	1960-1967				
William Long	1960-1975				
Dr. Peter Madsen	1960-1987				
Homer Scott, Sr.	1960-1993				

\* Current Trustees

#### WHITNEY COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

The Whitney Community Advisory Group was created in 2004 to provide input from various community members about current Whitney projects and events. The group helps to oversee operations at Whitney Commons and Sheridan Ice LLC. 2008 community members include:

Steve Carroll  
Judy Stallman

Tessa Dalton  
David Ferries

George Mathis



#### THE GIFT OF WATER – 40,347,409, GALLONS GIFTED TO THE CITY OF SHERIDAN

In 2008, Whitney Benefits continued the gift of water to the City of Sheridan. This year, Rotary Park at the Sheridan County Fairgrounds will also benefit from this donation. Whitney Benefits gifted the City of Sheridan 40,347,409 gallons of Park Reservoir water to assist in watering the thirteen Sheridan parks and greenways, including the Sheridan Recreation District's Thornerider Park, Oatts Baseball Complex, the Whitney soccer fields at the Sheridan County YMCA, and now Rotary Park at the Sheridan County Fairgrounds.