

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **A Journey of Generosity at the Wachholz Center**

For Immediate Release

Kalispell, Montana – October 30, 2024 – A JOURNEY of GENEROSITY Celebrates the Contributions and Inspiration of a Community Leader.

Friends, family, and grateful members of the Flathead Valley community came together on the evening of October 16 for A Journey of Generosity, a live interview and showcase for the story of business and community leader Paul D. Wachholz. The event became both a learning opportunity and a celebration.

During the interview, Wachholz shared gritty and funny tales about his career, how he came to Kalispell from Colorado more than fifty years ago and the challenges of going from success in business to a fulfilling life of gifting. It was a combination of faith in God, the importance of his family, and deep engagement in the community that overcame all obstacles. Other speakers explained many of the tangible results of Wachholz's journey. Dr. Laura McCollum, of the Stillwater Christian School, shared how gifts support and expand the school's educational missions. Tagen Vine of Flathead Valley Community College pointed to the opportunities for students and the broader community because of the Wachholz College Center, named for the evening's star and also the site of the event itself.

"You don't know how to live until you know how to give," was a principle that became central for Wachholz. He admitted candidly that it was not easy for him to learn how to live a life of giving. He also warned against a mistake, "Don't wait until you pass away." With people living longer, he added, it is more important than ever to collaborate with family members to develop principles and habits of gifting. Paul's son Lance also participated in the interview, explaining how gifting has become embedded in the family.

Michelle Clary, CFP®, CLU®, ChFC®, RICP®, AEP®, shared that this journey has been ongoing for ten years already, with the first several years being interviews as Wachholz was rethinking and learning how to live the generous life that he now models for others. Piton Wealth, the financial firm that Clary founded and heads, sponsored the event, because now seemed the time to share this story with others who will learn and benefit from it. "After years of work, everything came together so that we knew this was the right time. Paul was not just ready; he was eager to share his journey. Community partners were ready and excited to share the results of what he has been doing. Others came in to make sure that the story reaches others who will benefit from the inspiration. Paul's gifting is more than an idea or a vision now. It's a model for what others can do and enjoy doing it."

"The best part is still to come," added Clary. "Years ago, these were conversations and thoughts. Now they are actions. This night was sharing a story. In the future, that story will be the lives of others. That's where this journey leads."