

**KALISPELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2008 FACT SHEET**

YEAR FOUNDED: 1904

YEAR INCORPORATED: 1942

POPULATION SERVED: Northwest Montana; 150,000 population

NUMBER OF MEMBERS/
ECONOMIC IMPACT 700 members. These members employ over half of the workforce in Flathead County, Montana.

MISSION STATEMENT: The central mission of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce is the cultivation and development of entrepreneurs and communities through the spirit of enterprise.

BACKGROUND: The Kalispell Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1904 and is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Montana incorporated on January 19, 1942. It was granted an exemption from Federal income tax in August 1942 under provisions of Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code and has been classified as an organization that is not a private foundation under Section 509(a)(2). The Kalispell Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of businesses and professional men and women who have joined together for the purpose of promoting the civic, commercial, and industrial progress of the community.

RECENT HISTORY: The Kalispell Chamber has been accredited by the US Chamber since 1981. The Chamber is accredited at a level held by less than one-half of one percent of chambers of commerce nationally.

In 1987, the City of Kalispell designated the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce as the nonprofit tourism agency to represent the City. Consequently, allocation of taxes from the State of Montana's Lodging Facility Use Tax to the City of Kalispell is administered by the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce.

In 1991, the Kalispell Chamber Foundation was created and began operating under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The purpose of the Foundation is to stimulate interest and involvement in economic development, economic education, leadership training, and community research.

In 2000, the Montana Department of Commerce awarded the Kalispell Chamber a contract to manage the Small Business Development Center serving Flathead, Lake, and Lincoln counties. The Center provides business assistance services to new and existing businesses, free of cost.

In 2003, the Flathead Regional Business Center was established in the Depot Building. The Center is comprised of providers of regional business development services, in a one-stop setting, serving Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders counties.

In 2004, the Chamber was awarded a contract to provide government contracting services in Lake, Lincoln, Flathead, and Sanders counties.

In 2005, twenty-two economic, community and workforce development organizations formed a collaborative partnership with a focus on supporting existing businesses and the business leaders who have made a commitment to Flathead County. The Business Expansion and Retention Program is hosted by the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce.

CHAMBER BRAND: Collectively, these activities are referred to as the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce because the Chamber is the best known, most dominant brand and is the foundation upon which the other programs are built.

STAFF:	<u>Name/Title</u>	<u>Years in Position</u>
	Joe Unterreiner, President/CEO	12
	Bridget Evans, Director of Member Services	1
	Cary Aubrey, Administrative Assistant	1
	Doug Bolender, Government Contracting Services	4
	Grace Holm, Visitor Center/Receptionist	19
	Jill Seigmund, Leadership Flathead	4
	Lad Barney, Small Business Development	4

- 2008 PRIORITIES:
1. Analyze cost of needed infrastructure and best funding methods.
 2. Fully fund Kalispell Bypass and Kalispell Transportation Plan.
 3. Extend *Kalispell Business Education Initiative* to improve education.
 4. Expand markets through trade opportunities and resources.
 5. Add new capabilities to web site to drive referrals and benefits

2008 BUDGET:	Government Affairs	\$52,739
	Economic Development	\$392,061
	Community Development	\$79,305
	Membership Services	\$142,757
	Publications	<u>\$54,397</u>
	Total	\$721,259

CHAMBER TAX ID#: 81-0154268; tax exempt under section 501(c)(6) of the IRS code.

FOUNDATION TAX ID #: 36-3887380; tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION: *Outstanding Small Community Business Expansion & Retention Program*, Bus. Expansion and Retention International 2007
4-Star Accreditation, US Chamber of Commerce 2006
Desiree Taggart Memorial Award for Workforce Development, State of Montana 2004
William Heartwell Jr. Award for Workforce Development, National Association of State Workforce Agencies 2002

CONTACT INFORMATION: 15 Depot Park, Kalispell MT 59901
406-758-2800 voice
888-888-2308 toll free
406-758-2805 fax
info@kalispellchamber.com
www.kalispellchamber.com