

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CONTACT:**

Carolynn Bright  
Communications Officer  
(406) 495-7506

**Plum Creek Foundation Awards SAF \$2,000 for “A Step Ahead” College Prep Camp**

The Plum Creek Foundation recently awarded nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) \$2,000 to help two youths in foster care attend “A Step Ahead” College Prep Camp – Career and Life Readiness Summit.

“Student Assistance Foundation is extremely grateful for this generous contribution from the Plum Creek Foundation,” said Kelly Cresswell, SAF’s vice president of Foundation Activities. “These funds will allow two high school students from the Lake, Flathead and Missoula County area to attend the camp and receive necessary life skills and college preparation training.”

“A Step Ahead” College Prep Camp – Career and Life Readiness Summit is a free, five-day camp geared toward providing youth in foster care an opportunity to gain college, career and life skills, along with experiencing college life firsthand. This year, the event will take place at Carroll College in Helena June 17-21.

While at the camp, youth stay in the dorms and receive classroom instruction in areas including money management, relationship-building, finding and maintaining housing, and scholarship searches and applications. Plus, camp participants learn the purpose of Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) for youth in foster care and how to properly complete the application forms. Youths who attend the full camp, and will be attending postsecondary education in the fall, will have the opportunity to take home a free laptop computer to help them with their studies.

*Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to finance and pursue their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants and public benefit programs - to date more than \$27 million. For more information, visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).*

*Plum Creek is the one of the largest and most geographically diverse private landowners in the nation with approximately 6.4 million acres of timberlands in major timber producing regions of the United States and wood products manufacturing facilities in the Northwest. In Montana, Plum Creek practices sustainable forestry on all of its 897,000 acres throughout the western part of the state. For more information on Plum Creek in Montana, visit [www.plumcreek.com/montana](http://www.plumcreek.com/montana).*

Photo caption: (L-R) Rhonda Safford, SAF Programs manager; Kelly Cresswell, SAF vice president of Foundation Activities; and Aidan Myhre, Gallatin Group (Plum Creek Foundation representative). Plum Creek Foundation representative Aidan Myhre stopped by SAF recently to deliver a check for \$2,000 for “A Step Ahead” College Prep Camp – Career and Life Readiness Summit.