

Shepherd's Hand 2017 Board of Directors

Jim Cummings (2018)

Maura Fields, Vice President (2019)

Jason Spring (2018)

Jay Erickson (2018)

Jon Johnson, Vice President (2019)

Reed Thompson (2018)

Dan Chisholm (2018)

Sherry Lesar (2019)

Shawn Watts, President (2019)

Board Members at a Glance

Jim Cummings

I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, attended Tennessee Tech University and graduated from Wilmington College with a degree in Agriculture Economics. While in college I had a summer job with Rocky Mountain Outfitters in Glacier National Park as a wrangler at Lake McDonald, this introduced me to Montana.

I had a 32-year career with C.H. Robinson Company, a third-party transportation logistics provider and produce broker based out of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The company opened a branch office here in Montana in 1998 and I got the opportunity to take it over and moved my family to the flathead valley. I retired in 2013 and now spend even more time working on my small farm and spending time with my family and all the activities Montana has to offer.

I am married to Kathy and we have four sons, Matt, Luke, Jake and Jon. Both my wife Kathy and I have had the privilege of being involved with SH for the past two years and presently help with the community meal served every Monday prior to the clinic.

Jay Erickson

Jay, along with his wife Meg and Connie Erickson (no relation) founded Shepherd's Hand Clinic in 1995. Jay stepped down from his role as Medical Director and became a voting member of the Board in the fall of 2016.

Jay is a native of Minnesota. He graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in chemistry, attended medical school at the University of Minnesota, and completed a Family Medicine Residency in Spokane, Washington in 1990 before moving to Whitefish to start practice with Glacier Medical Associates. In 2004 Jay took a part time job with the University Of Washington School Of Medicine as the Assistant Dean overseeing the Montana WWAMI students and two clinical rural programs in the WWAMI region, WRITE and TRUST. Dr. Erickson is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine. In addition to being the medical director of Shepherd's Hand Free Clinic Jay also led a number of trips to the mountains of Ecuador to deliver health care.

Jay and Meg have two wonderful sons – Andy and Will, and a delightful daughter-in-law Karli and a wonderful granddaughter Astri. They enjoy traveling and spending time at their cabin in the North Fork.

Dan Chisholm

I grew up in Dallas, TX and received my bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Notre Dame and my master's Degree in Taxation from the University of Texas at Austin.

I moved to Montana in 1994 after working a temporary assignment in Columbus, MT and being awed by Montana's natural beauty. My wife, Amy, and I settled in Whitefish in 2010 after stints in Missoula, Tucson AZ, and Monmouth OR.

I have been with the accounting firm Jordahl & Sliter, PLLC since 2010 and joined the board of directors at Shepherd's Hand in 2017. Amy and I have two kids, Noah and Teagan, who are most happy running through the woods or playing along the water's edge.

Maura Fields

Prior to moving to Libby, Montana, in 1979 with my family to assume the role of Director of Nursing, I lived in the St. Louis area. I was the beneficiary of an education from St. Louis University that emphasized social activism and an ethical view of the world. My time at St. John's Hospital was my first administrative position after clinical experiences in oncology and intensive care nursing as well as an epidemiology research position in Boston, MA. We moved to Whitefish in 1983 when I assumed the position of Nursing Director at North Valley Hospital. Since that time, I have held various nursing administrative positions at NVH and currently serve as the Chief Clinical Officer. In 2012, I joined the Board of Directors of Shepherd's Hand Clinic. The work of SHC has been a tremendous asset to our community and I appreciate the opportunity to participate in its evolution. I hope to further contribute to its nurturing relationships that exist between the community, North Valley Hospital and Shepherd's Hand.

I continue to live in Whitefish with my husband. My two adult children graduated from Whitefish High School and enjoy their return visits to the place that fostered their sense of community and the love of the outdoors. My 3-year old grandson continues this tradition as well and is a delight to my life.

Jon Johnson

I was raised in Manitou Springs, Colorado, graduated with a degree in Physics from the University of Colorado, and then completed medical school, also at the University of Colorado. After 4 years of post-graduate training at the University of Vermont, my wife Diane and I relocated to Los Alamos, New Mexico where I practiced cardiology and internal medicine, raised two sons, Ethan and Adam and developed a love for skiing and cycling. A sense of adventure brought us to Libby in December of 1995 at which time our boys became part of the Big Mountain race team. In 1999, I joined Rocky Mountain Heart and Lung in Kalispell and we decided to make our home in Whitefish. My involvement with Shepherd's Hand Clinic began almost immediately, providing cardiology consults for clinic patients. I also made three trips to Ecuador on medical missions with Dr. Jay Erickson. In 2012, I began volunteering as a clinic physician on a regular basis and joined the board in 2013.

Sherry Lesar

I was born in Omaha, Nebraska and followed my parents through cities like Salt Lake City, Utah, Casper, Wyoming, and Madison, Wisconsin as I grew up. I attended the University of Wisconsin and then, as a newlywed moved to Dallas, Texas where I finished my degree in teaching at the University of Texas-Dallas. I taught at the high school level in a disadvantaged school district where many of the students came from broken homes, or were being raised by grandparents or other relatives in structures that sometimes lacked indoor plumbing and had dirt floors. Hunger was an obstacle that they struggled with daily. My class load consisted of children with serious and frequently violent behavioral issues, remedial to no reading ability, and those just marking time until they could drop out. Few of them had any hope left at such young ages. Life seemed to be just an ongoing, miserable struggle that they accepted. They had very little ability to get medical or dental care. It was in this setting that I learned firsthand how these kinds of circumstances have a dramatically negative impact on people's lives and on future generations' opportunity to break this cycle.

I left teaching to raise our family and to accompany my husband Dave from Dallas to Chicago to Houston to Dubai and then finally back to Houston. We have two wonderful adult children-John and Lisa, and in August of 2012 we were given the additional blessing of a great daughter-in-law Katie.

In 2007 I started my own family business called Stargazer Land and Cattle, of which I am the CEO. Today Stargazer owns and operates farms and commercial timber properties in nine states. The business keeps me on the move and I'm looking into acquiring international properties in the near future.

We have had a house in Whitefish for nearly 10 years and I enjoy spending as much time here as I can.

The experiences I had teaching, and the empathy I have for those that do not have access to good, ongoing medical and dental care are the reasons that I was drawn to Shepherd's Hand. It's essential to try to do something to better the lives of those less fortunate. For me, Shepherd's Hand is such an opportunity.

Shawn Watts

My wife, Bernadette and I moved to Montana from Chicago Illinois in the summer of 1997 so that I could take a position at Plum Creek Timber Company, where I worked for 20 years. Beginning in January 2017 I became an independent IT Consultant, focused on the intersection between business strategy and technology.

I have Bachelors and Master's Degrees in Religious Studies from Georgetown University and the University of Chicago, respectively. Bernadette and I have raised our three children – Eli, Claire, and Isaac – in Whitefish. Over the years, we have built a collection of great family memories on the ski slopes of the Big Mountain and the hiking trails of Glacier National Park. I am blessed with the opportunity to volunteer at Shepherd's Hand.

Jason Spring

Jason Spring is the Chief Strategic Officer for Kalispell Regional Healthcare. Prior to his current role, he served as the CEO of North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, HealthPark Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas and St. Vincent's Rehabilitation Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has worked in hospital administration since 1994 in various management roles. An active member in the community, he currently serves as a board member on the Montana Hospital Association, Montana West Economic Development Corporation, Mountain States Accountable Care Organization, Whitefish Chamber of Commerce, Shepherd's Hand Clinic and the Airline Expansion and Recruitment Organization. Jason was recently elected to Board of Trustees for the American Hospital Association with a three year term beginning in January 2017.

Jason is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and has served on various ACHE committees. He received a master's degree in health service administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Centenary College of Louisiana.

Jason is married to Angie St. Onge and they have five kids ranging from ages 25-15. Skyler, Shane, Sheena, Emma Claire and Jack.

Reed Thompson

I was born and raised in Butte, Montana. I completed an undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences at Montana State University. Then I spent 4 years in Minneapolis, Minnesota, earning a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Minnesota. My next adventure was a move to Dillingham, Alaska, where I worked as a general dentist for nine years with the Indian Health Service at Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. Then I completed a residency in Minneapolis and earned a Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Minnesota. I became board-certified in pediatric dentistry and am a current member of the Montana Dental Association, American Dental Association, and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

I moved to Kalispell in 2009 with my wife Cooke and we were married in 2010 at East Glacier. Cooke and I reside in Kalispell and enjoy the great outdoors with our dog Kulik. I have enjoyed volunteering at the Shepherd's Hand Dental Clinic since its inception and have been on the board since 2015.