



16th Annual Avista Charity Golf Tournament raises \$16,000 benefitting Montana animal shelter

August 18, 2026

THOMPSON FALLS, Mont. – Aug. 18, 2026: Avista Utilities is proud to announce that its 16th Annual Charity Golf Scramble and Silent Auction, held on August 15, 2026, at River's Bend Golf Course in Thompson Falls, raised \$16,461 in support of the Thompson River Animal Care Shelter (TRACS). For the last twenty years, this Montana nonprofit has rescued thousands of animals in need of medical care and shelter to provide a second chance at a loving home.

"The generosity of the Avista team and every golfer, sponsor, volunteer and donor will help us provide lifesaving care and find loving homes for more animals in Sanders County and many other areas around the country. Your support will allow us to continue our mission of protecting and caring for the most vulnerable pets. We're deeply thankful for the donations raised and the community that made it possible," said Wanda Thorpe, founder of TRACS.

Avista has had a presence in Northwest Montana since 1959, when the Noxon Rapids Dam began generating hydropower and contributing to the region through job creation and long-term local investment. Its presence in Montana has brought lasting benefits, including support for environmental resources and community development.

Today, Avista manages stewardship along the Clark Fork River and 28 public recreation sites, offers [scholarships](#) to local students, and supports other philanthropic initiatives.

"Community partnerships are at the heart of what we do at Avista. By working together to support meaningful causes, we can make a greater impact and help build stronger, more vibrant communities," said Sean Kelly, Avista Noxon Rapids Dam chief operator and golf tournament committee chair.

Each year, Avista chooses a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to benefit from the charity golf tournament and co-host the event. Organizations are selected with an emphasis on those that serve a vulnerable population and strengthen the local community. More information can be found at myavista.com/Montana.

Since the tournament started in 2009, the event has raised over \$244,666 for local causes.

Media package with photos and captions [is available here](#) for download. Please courtesy Avista Utilities when using this content.

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