

# Traditions That Bring Us Together

## The Story of 2025

Dear Friend of Random Acts of Silliness:

In just a few years, Random Acts of Silliness (RAS) has built beloved traditions in the Gallatin Valley. These traditions anchor our seasons and build lifelong memories. In the darkness of winter, we gather in a celebration of light at the Lantern Parade. The end of summer heralds the return of the fairies to Bumblewood Thicket. As the days grow shorter in autumn, we gather at Crankie Fest to fill our hearts with story and song. Digital devices are put away and we are shoulder-to-shoulder with a kaleidoscope of community members. We gather to celebrate that which makes us human: connection, laughter, creativity, and wonder.

## Here's a sparkly snapshot of our year:



### MENAGERIE OF THE IMAGINARY LANTERN PARADE

Approximately **2,500** Gallatin Valley residents enjoyed the spectacle of **450** locally made lanterns and choral music at the Gallatin Regional Park.

**FUN FACT:** 10 local artists spent hundreds of hours creating Echo and Amelia, our two new giant lantern puppets who were debuted at the parade!

**PARTICIPANT QUOTE:** "I've never felt so connected to my community and I've never been a part of something that created so much joy before."



*"3 generations loved it - toddler, me & husband, grandma & grandpa"*

*"I heard one kid proudly say that this is the happiest she has ever been, being here right now, seeing the parade."*

### ROXY PRESENTS: HANSEL AND GRETEL

**307** audience members attended our version of Hansel and Gretel - a fully improvised operatic experience for all!

**FUN FACT:** In this partnership with Opera Montana, performers improvised each song based on audience suggestions, including amazing originals like "Eat More Candy" and "Don't Trust Ducks".

**VISITOR QUOTE:** "We were not ready for it to be over! My granddaughters were on the edge of their seats, engaged the whole time and absolutely loved the show!"



*"It was perfect!"*



## TRULY RANDOM ACTS OF SILLINESS

We brought surprising moments of whimsy to the Gallatin Valley all year long through pop-ups like our Story Stand and Silly Snow Faces.



**IMPROVISED STORIES SERVED AT THE STORY STAND:** 120

**FUN FACT:** Each improvised story got a hand-drawn piece of art by a professional local artist as a keepsake.

**SILLY SNOW FACES:** 6

**GIGGLES SPARKED BY THE SILLY SNOW FACES:** est. 7,042



## ENCHANTED EVENINGS IN BUMBLEWOOD THICKET

*"I felt the music in my heart!"*

**2,700** visitors got to enjoy ballet, storytelling and live music on the trails along with their visit to Bumblewood Thicket.

**FUN FACT:** Our Story Apron has 12 pockets, each one containing a treasure and story from the fairies of Bumblewood Thicket!

**PARTICIPANT QUOTE:** "Life affirming!!! Perfectly placed and play-based! A true treasure. A refreshingly unique community event, clearly and wonderfully focused on helping us all access the arts and our own creativity - framed by the most inspirational of all things: our gorgeous landscape."

*"Music and dance helped bridge the fairy world and non-fairy world. Made me feel more connected with the village and lore"*



## BUMBLEWOOD THICKET FAIRY VILLAGE

*"A Hallmark of childhood!"*

This year Bumblewood Thicket received just under **25,000** visitors!

**FUN FACT:** Each fairy house or business can take up to 300 hours to build! They are truly labors of love.

**PARTICIPANT QUOTE:** "Lovely, thought provoking... a needed escape that brought us all together."



*"Enlightening! Happy! Brings the wonder of childhood memories back."*

*"Its better than Disneyland!"*

# INTO THE FOREST CRANKIE FEST

We hosted **550** audience members at FREE shows at the Belgrade Community Library and Beall Park Recreation Center.

**FUN FACT:** As part of this year's fest, we also performed crankies for **150** toddlers at Story Times and taught **19** kids to make their own crankies thanks to a partnership with the Bozeman Public Library.

**PARTICIPANT QUOTE:** "The Crankie Fest cured my depression. Each crankie I thought 'wow, this is my favorite one!' I love the live music and foley effects! The puppets! The art! The people!"

*"The artists were amazing and the sound and music absolutely blew me away."*

*"Heartwarming community fun"*

## VOLUNTEERS

Our random silliness was made possible by **88** volunteers working a total of **366** hours this year!

**VOLUNTEER QUOTE:** "Talent, wonder & joy! Little kids, parents, and fellow geezers all unite to be Friends of the Fairies. I tried to thank everyone coming through & so many thanked me! Thank you for letting me be a tiny, enthusiastic volunteer."

*"RAS is one of the most wonderful resources in Gallatin Valley. Thank you!"*

## EMPOWERING LOCAL ARTISTS & PERFORMERS

From musicians to fairy-house builders, we were grateful to work with and offer financial support to **58** local artists and performers in 2025.

**ARTIST QUOTE:** "The entire team at RAS was beyond helpful and supportive. The success of Bumblewood is 100% the result of the dedication your team. Thank you!!!!"

*"RAS is one of the most beautiful parts of being in Bozeman. I am in awe of everything that you create! thank you so much for being a haven in a difficult world. xx"*



# YOU MADE THE MAGIC REAL!

Our Random Acts of Silliness in 2025 were made possible by a host of generous community members, businesses, foundations, and partners!

**EXTREMELY SILLY AND SINCERE THANKS TO THE 459 DONORS WHO SUPPORTED US THIS YEAR!**

**TWINKLY THANKS TO OUR MAGIC MAKER CIRCLE.**  
These businesses help us make magic year round.



**WILD WOOHOOS & HIGH FIVES TO OUR MAGNIFICENT MAJOR PROGRAM SPONSORS:**



**FANTASTIC FOUNDATIONS**

**PLAYFUL PARTNERS**

