

# PARK CITY

## MAGAZINE

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WORD ABOUT TOWN

## Match Game

*The Park City Foundation helps find ties between donors and causes.*

Connecting people. That's the goal of the Park City Foundation ([theparkcityfoundation.org](http://theparkcityfoundation.org)), which helps families manage their philanthropic dollars by matching them to the needs of our local community. Through the foundation, people can create donor-advised funds as a way to provide grants to nonprofits they'd like their money to support.

One shining example is that of a family that suffered remarkable loss yet chose to give back. In 1992, Steve and Ingrid Tyler purchased a vacation home in Deer Valley after falling in love with Utah's champagne powder. A few years later, they lost their son Charles, a freshman at Cornell University at the time, in a tragic skiing accident in Park City. Despite being avid skiers, the family was unsure if they would ever ski again. But they did.

Years later, when Steve Tyler joined the board of the Park City Foundation, he and his wife asked the nonprofit to help them promote helmet safety. While it is unclear whether a helmet would have saved their son, Ingrid Tyler says, "We want people to know there was a reason behind the donation. We lost a life, and we want to help save others."

**'Our main goal is to promote impactful philanthropy, and this is a perfect example.'**

Using the money they granted to the foundation, the Tylers purchased helmets for Niños on Skis, a cross-cultural program connecting families through skiing. "If it were not for the foundation and this family, these children wouldn't have an opportunity the rest of the kids in Park City take for granted," says Ernest Oriente, Niños on Skis program director.

Serendipity then entered the equation. The foundation learned that Leadership Park

City, a program that identifies and trains community leaders, had chosen helmet safety as its annual project. Trisha Worthington, the Park City Foundation's executive director, approached the Tylers about providing a challenge grant to Leadership Park City. The Tylers readily agreed. Their decision resulted in helmet fittings, safety education, and helmet discounts at local retailers. Bringing the project full circle, the family was in attendance at the City Council meeting at which "Helmet Safety Week" was declared.

"Our main goal is to promote impactful philanthropy, and this is a perfect example," says Worthington. "This project filled a need in our community and filled the desire of the donors, since it was exactly the cause they wanted to support."

The Tylers couldn't be more thrilled with the outcome and the chance to participate in not one but two separate programs. "If you get involved in the Park City Foundation," says Steve Tyler, "it makes you more of a participant in the community." —Liz Yokubison