



Family Resource Centers

A Program of WORD-Women's Opportunity and Resource Development

Newsletter

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

FEB 2006

Inside this Issue:

- Listing of Family Resource Centers
- MLK Service Day
- A Note from the Director
- Did You Know...

For more information go to:
www.wordinc.org/frc

Graphics and Editing by:
Lindsey Rehder
Stories by:
Suzette Dussualt
Pictures by:
Lindsey Rehder

“Making It A Day On, Not A Day Off!”

For Eileen Brown, the visit by the Missoula Literacy Support Corps on Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday was a treat.

Rather than taking the day off, the team took a day on. They decided to do something good in the community in celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. The good work was highly appreciated.

The Missoula Team spent the morning making Valentines for the residents of the Village Health Care Center (VHCC) “and the afternoon playing Bingo with them. “Our residents loved having them here,” says Katie Pak, activity aide at the VHCC, and they loved having the kids and the dog. They adore kids.” The dog, Jane Yungmeyer-Olson’s Cavalier Spaniel, “Bailey,” was clearly a hit.

But the residents especially liked having someone sit with them, play Bingo with them and talk with them. “It’s so rare that they get that one-on-one opportunity, to interact with others,” she said, “They really appreciated it. They are still talking about it.” Pak said that the senior residence holds Bingo games three times a week and that visitors are always welcome to play. Anything that anyone does, really, is welcome. Eileen Brown said that she would like to talk a walk. “Sometimes they give us all a turn. It’s pretty nice of them.”

For Team Leader Melissa Parrot, the visit to the home was not only a good way

for the team to work together on a project, but “was an opportunity for team members to give back to the community,” she said. “We get so much from our communities. For instance, the Food Bank is a great partnership, they provide food for many of our programs. And so, in October, we volunteered there as a team, to give back to them for what they have given us. And almost just as importantly, to meet the clientele and the staff, to make that connection.”

The Bitterroot Team under the direction of Team Leader Nancy Preston took a year’s worth of work and slam, bang, boom, finished it in a day. “They did a wonderful job,” said Lois Staves of the Clothes Closet in Stevensville. The shop, which offers second-hand clothing to the community, needed the help of the 16-member crew. “They really helped us a lot. Most of our volunteers can’t do the kinds of things that they did.”



Family Resource Centers, a program of WORD, are a collaborative program between WORD and school districts and are funded by:

- Montana Office of Community Service
- The Engelhard Foundation
- Title I
- Early Learning Opportunities
- Washington Foundation

Did You Know?

In the Family Resource Centers this year...

Over 500 activities have been facilitated

Over 7,780 parents and 11,650 kids have taken part in these activities

Over 1,056 community members have volunteered over 3,000 hours

More than 305 community partnerships have been formed with grocery stores, banks, and other local businesses

20/27 members are parents or step-parents, 15/27 have children in the school district in which they serve

Members have Bachelor's Degrees or higher in the following fields:

Print Making, History, Political Communication, Forensic Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, English Literature, Creative Writing, Range Management, Psychology, Human and Family Development, Early Education, Business Management and many more!

Director's Notes



Along with valentine hearts, February often seems to bring with it a noticeable dip in morale around school communities. Perhaps it's the cold weather, or the still short daylight hours. At times the edginess is palpable.

When Literacy Support Corps members begin their service, together they take the AmeriCorps pledge:

I will get things done for America – to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will take action.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.

Throughout their year of service, they are put to the test to uphold this pledge. Daily life in a Family Resource Center often brings with it an awareness of the challenges everyone in the school community faces. They hear teachers' concerns, parents' worries, community difficulties, administrative directives and more. Listening is hard work. Their challenge is to be part of the problem solving effort, to look for the growth opportunity and the strengths that can be developed within the challenge.

The *esprit de corps* nurtured in Literacy Support Corps, the commitment to help school communities grow in positive directions, will receive an even bigger morale boost this month as we travel to join AmeriCorps members from across Montana for the annual "All Member Gathering" on February 20th. This event weaves our members into the larger AmeriCorps experience, with an opportunity to consider this year of service in relationship to democratic citizenship. Stories will be shared, understanding deepened, commitment renewed, all with a healthy dose of celebration!

Locations of the Family Resource Centers:

Missoula Area:

Bonner School
PO Box 1004
Bonner, MT 59823
Anya Miles
406-258-6151
family@bonner.k12.mt.us

Franklin Elementary
1901 S. 10th West
Missoula, MT 59802
Alicia Crandell
406-327-0483
franklinfr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Hawthorne Elementary
2835 S. 3rd West
Missoula, MT 59804
Carrie Strike
406-327-6945
hawthornefr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Lewis and Clark Elementary
2901 Park St.
Missoula, MT 59801
Erin Kral
406-327-6946
frclewis@mcps.k12.mt.us

Lowell Elementary
1200 Sherwood
Missoula, MT 59802
Josh Archey
406-327-0390
lowellfr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Paxson Elementary
101 Evans
Missoula, MT 59801
Liz Stotts
406-542-4055
frcpaxson@mcps.k12.mt.us

Rattlesnake Elementary
1220 Pineview
Missoula, MT
Jane Yungmeyer-Olson
406-542-4914
resfr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Russell Elementary
3216 Russell St.
Missoula, MT 59801
Jillian Foster
406-728-2400 ext 4846
frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us

Teen Family Resource Center
1861 S. 12th St
Missoula, MT 59802
Cheryl Matt
406-542-4900
cmatt@wordinc.org

Northside Women's Center
127 N. Higgins Suite 307
Missoula, MT 59801
Meg Heart
mheart@wordinc.org

Bitterroot Area:

Daly/Grantsdale Elementary
778 Grantsdale St.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Rachel Martin
406-363-2122 ext 190
406-363-1889
martin@hsd3.org

Florence Elementary
5602 Old Hwy 93
Florence, MT 59833
406-273-6741 ext 203
elemfr@florence.k12.mt.us

Florence Middle School
5602 Old Hwy 93
Florence, MT 59833
Christa Burns
406-273-6741 ext 203
burnsc@florence.k12.mt.us

Hamilton Middle School
209 S. 5th St
Hamilton, MT 59840
Cathy Orr
406-363-2121 ext 5004
orrc@hsd3.org

Hamilton High School
327 Fairgrounds Rd
Hamilton, MT 59840
Ellen Ryter
406-375-6060 ext 6222
rytere@hsd3.org

Lone Rock Elementary
1112 Three Mile Creek Rd
Stevensville, MT 59870
Erica Amt
406-777-3314 ext 219
ericaamt@lonerockschool.org

Ravalli Head Start
81 Kurtz Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840
Cami Ewalt
Susan Matthews
406-363-1217 ext 20
camrae@ravalliheadstart.org
susanm@ravalliheadstart.org

Kids First
Westview Center
103 S. 9th St. #105
Hamilton, MT 59840
Jodi Waliser
406-375-9588
jwaliser@bitterrootkids.org

Stevensville Elementary
300 Park Ave
Stevensville, MT 59870
Debbie Bauer-Johnson
406-777-5613 ext 351
johnsond@stevensville.k12.mt.us

Stevensville Junior High
300 Park Street
Stevensville, MT 59870
Debbie Bauer-Johnson
406-777-5533
johnsond@stevensville.k12.mt.us

Washington Primary
225 N. 5th St.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Michelle Wilson
wilsonm@hsd3.org
406-363-2144

Victor School
425 4th Avenue
Victor, MT 59875
Brandy Boak
boak@victor.k12.mt.us
406-642-3221 ext 255

Flathead Area:

Cherry Valley Elementary
111 4th Ave
Polson, MT 59860
Tara Bowman
Liana Zimmerman
406-883-6333 ext 525
lzimmerman@polson.k12.mt.us

Linderman Elementary
111 4th Ave
Polson, MT 59860
Cassie Anderson
406-883-6229

Two Eagle River School
PO Box 160
Pablo, MT 59855
Dacia Whitworth
406-675-0292

WORD-Family Resource Centers

127 N. Higgins Ave
Suite 307
Missoula, MT 59802
406-543-3550