



WORD

Family Resource Centers

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

Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

JAN. 19, 2005

- WORD promotes and supports parent/family involvement in the schools
- WORD looks to increase literacy by sponsoring and coordinating the Western Montana Literacy Support Corps

Locations of Family Resource Centers

Missoula Area:
 Bonner
 Franklin
 Hawthorne
 Lewis and Clark
 Lowell
 Rattlesnake
 Russell
 Teen Family Resource Center

Bitterroot Area:
 Daly/Grantsdale
 Darby
 Florence
 Hamilton-Kids First
 Lone Rock
 Ravalli Head Start
 Stevensville
 Washington

Flathead Area:
 Cherry Valley
 Ronan

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

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Teen Family Resource Center

Strike or gutter? As long as you're having fun it doesn't matter! That's the attitude for the upcoming Family Fun Night at the Teen Family Resource Center. On January 24th, a bowling extravaganza has been planned for those involved with the Center. "Bowling always brings laughter and good times," said Essie Etchingham, AmeriCorps member at the Teen Family Resource Center. Every month an event is planned to gather staff and clients to enjoy a fun time spent together.

In December it was a party with holiday treats, festive music, socializing, and Santa Claus with presents in tow.

Santa handed out gifts of books to all the children as a part of the "Shared Beginnings" program the



Teen Family Resource Center is involved with. This program is an variation of the RIF program held in the schools and helps to provide book resources to teen parents and their children.

Futures, a low program of the Family Resource Centers at WORD, is the program leading the Teen Family Resource Centers. Similar to the Family Resource Centers in the schools, Futures provides a place that is available to teens to help reestablish educational goals and build partnerships. "Parents are the first teacher their child encounters," said Futures Director Naomi Thornton.

"By providing them with skills to support themselves they are supporting their child." Over 100 moms and

dads between the ages of 15-21 with infants and toddlers get involved with the Center each year. Resources such as helping with issues around housing, education, parenting, or any personal needs a young parent may encounter, the Teen Family Resource Centers is there to help.

Futures has three staff, one AmeriCorps member, and one student volunteer who operated out of the Teen Family Resource Center.

"Meeting the kids and connecting with the parents are what I enjoy the most. Any little way that we can reach and get to know someone is a great opportunity," said Etchingham. "I'm looking forward to the upcoming months."

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



Meet Your Family Resource Center Family

(Part four in a ten-part series on Family Resource Center staff)



During the Vietnam War, some Americans chose to fight while others protested. Sara Boyett showed her patriotism by becoming a VISTA Volunteer and running a daycare center for children of Navajo migrant workers. Thirty-five years later, as the Bonner School Family Resource Center Coordinator, she sees her Americorps service as an opportunity to reinvigorate her idealism. The future to Sara is not an abstract concept. It shines in the face of each child at her school. She knows everyone by name and is fascinated by the importance of the home-school connection.

Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Sara first saw Missoula in 1955. It took decades to return, because this Renaissance woman packed several

lifetimes into her travels. She worked as an English instructor in Chile, traveling all the way to the tip of Patagonia. In Butte, Montana, she directed the Butte Public Archives, in an effort to preserve the buildings and records of that city. She is a published author, developed internships at the college level, and dabbles in antiques (mostly kitchen and folk art). Through her experiences, Sara has been rich and poor. Reflectively, she says, "Living well is not about money. It is about the heart and human connections, sharing one's table, and knowing when enough is enough."

What Sara cannot get enough of is her joy in working with the parents, children, and staff at Bonner School. She feels that when parents participate at the school, children feel validated. There is an acknowledgement that school is important. Her recently successful program of "Post

Office" speaks to that validation. Following Mrs. Hall's third grade letter-writing unit, each child brought his or her letter to the Center. There was a huge mailbox (with a flag), a ribbon cutting ceremony, speeches by the principal, and refreshments. Each child put the letter in the mailbox. Parents and grandparents come to the Center to receive their "mail" and "send" their own letters. To further support literacy at Bonner, Sara looks forward to a visit from a national author in January. She would also like to start a fourth and fifth grade Book Club.

What is in Sara's future? "It's a secret!" she admits. "However, it will have something to do with birds. I am a self-taught Birder, and have been since the 1970s." Nothing can stop Sara from living life to its fullest, and sharing that enthusiasm with all the people she meets.

A Note from the Director

Surprises occur every day in the mail I receive as Director of WORD's Family Resource Centers program. Some days the mail brings a new program challenge. Some days it brings a gift. Today it brought a gift. The American Endowment Foundation (www.aefonline.org) sent WORD's Family Resource Centers \$2,000 on behalf of an anonymous donor. At this time of year, as we work hard to formulate budgets and write grants for the coming year, this gift is especially meaningful. Donations from community members, like this one, allow Family Resource Centers to develop faster and in the most meaningful ways. Government grants we receive for development of Family Resource Centers require matching dollars from the local community. Each local dollar we receive is able to leverage much more than a dollar's worth of resources. For every \$1 that we receive from the community, we can purchase \$5-\$6 worth of books for children and families to increase learning in their homes through our RIF grant. For every \$1,600 we receive from community we can place another AmeriCorps member (a personnel value of \$11,340) in a learning community to develop family literacy programs and partnerships between schools, homes and the larger community. For amounts as low as \$200 Family Resource Centers are able to resource & coordinate activities for 200-300 people that include meals, prizes, learning activities and all the supplies necessary for entire families to have fun learning together. We know how to stretch a dollar, and no dollar stretches further than a local dollar!

So who exactly do I thank for this most recent donation? Thank you, all of you, parents, educators, businesses, agencies, churches, community organizations, and students who support Family Resource Centers through your goodwill, energy, experience, knowledge...and yes your dollars. Community donations, because of their flexible nature, allow Family Resource Centers to address the dreams, desires and needs of the community they are at the heart of. Your support is valuable and appreciated.

-Jeanne Moon
Program Director

Did you know...

In the 20 Family Resource Centers throughout December...

...over 2,800 adults and 3,200 children visited the Centers

...over 350 Center activities occurred -1/3 of them being
for the entire family

...1,100 people volunteered over 2,500 hours to
the Centers and their activities

...\$6,500 in material goods was donated to the Centers

...243 community partnerships were created



Other Random Facts...

...over 1,650 pots of coffee have been made

...19/23 AmeriCorps members are parents, step-parents, and/or foster
parents of children in the school district in which they work

...Literacy Support Corps members like to travel! To date members have
traveled across each continent, with the exception of Antarctica

...15/23 members have Bachelor's degrees or higher in fields such as...



Art, Anthropology, Interior Design,
Journalism, Theater, Printmaking, English,
Range Management, Travel, Psychology,
and a variety of others thrown into the mix

Locations of the Family Resource Centers:

Missoula Area:

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

Franklin Elementary
1901 S. 10th West
Missoula, MT 59802
Vickie Rectenwald
406-327-0483

Hawthorne Elementary
2835 S. 3rd West
Missoula, MT 59804
Mandy Hansen
406-327-6945

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

Lowell Elementary
1200 Sherwood
Missoula, MT 59802
Kasey Savage
406-327-0390
lowellfrfc@mcps.k12.mt.us

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

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

Teen Family Resource Center
1861 S. 12th St
Missoula, MT 59802
Essie Etchingham
406-542-4900

Bitterroot Area:

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

Darby Elementary
209 School Drive
Darby, MT 59829
Kelly Morris
406-821-3643
kmorris@darby.k12.mt.us

Florence Elementary
5602 Old Hwy 93
Florence, MT 59833
Elaine Copeland
406-273-6747 ext 117
copelande@florence.k12.mt.us

Florence Middle School
5602 Old Hwy 93
Florence, MT 59833
Christa Burns
406-273-0587
burnsc@florence.k12.mt.us

Hamilton Middle School
209 S. 5th St
Hamilton, MT 59840
Victoria Williams
406-363-2121
williamsv@hsd3.org

Lone Rock Elementary
1112 Three Mile Creek Rd
Stevensville, MT 59870
Nancy Preston
406-777-3314 ext 218
npreston@lonerockschool.edu

Ravalli Head Start
81 Kurtz Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840
Paula Wood
406-363-1217 ext 20

Kids First
Westview Center
103 S. 9th St. #105
Hamilton, MT 59840
Vicki Rivera
406-375-9588
vrivera@bitterrootkids.org

Stevensville Elementary
300 Park Ave
Stevensville, MT 59870
Wanda Stordahl
406-777-5613 ext 351
stordahlw@stevensville.k12.mt.us

Washington Elementary
225 N. 5th St.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Tara Gallagher
406-363-2144
gallagher@hsd3.org

Flathead Area:

Cherry Valley Elementary
111 4th Ave
Polson, MT 59860
Stephanie Noyes
snoyes@polson.k12.mt.us
Edna Lemm
406-883-6333

Ronan Middle School
421 Andrews NW
Drawer R
Ronan, MT 59864
Kathy Benedetti
406-676-3390

WORD-Family Resource Centers
127 N. Higgins Ave
Suite 307
Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: 406-543-3550

Join the Great Phone Drive!

Help support Women's Opportunity and Resource Development (WORD) by donating your inactive cell phones! All you have to do is gather idle or inactive cell phones sitting about your home or office and drop them off at any of the following locations:

- Bernice's Bakery
- The Catalyst
- Albertson's-all locations
- WORD 127 N. Higgins
- Russell Square Wireless Connection
- Bitterroot Wireless-Reserve
- Court House Gym
- Women's Club
- Slender Lady



Money will go to maintaining services that help families. For more information contact Lindsey Rehder or Wyatt Urlacher at 406-543-3550.