



WORD

# Family Resource Centers

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

## Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9

JUNE 10, 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](http://www.wordinc.org/frc)

## One of the Nation's Best

**In-no-va-tive, adj. new and original or taking a new and original approach.**

The Western Montana Literacy Support Corps received national recognition this spring when it was selected as an example of one of the country's most effective programs for addressing community needs by Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP). The Literacy Support Corps is one of 51 programs in thirty eight states showcased in the ICP publication



“Transforming Communities Through Service.” Over the years thousands of AmeriCorps grants have been made to organizations in every state. It's no small accomplishment for the Literacy Support Corps to have been selected in its second program year as one of the best examples of “getting things done” (*AmeriCorps motto*).

ICP is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that provides expertise, ideas, information, research, and advocacy support in the United States and around the world to develop and strengthen policies and programs that promote civic engagement through service. In their selection process ICP considered programs use of funding, partnerships, and sustained impact on members of the community. Each program had to include at least one of six characteristics of innovation. The Literacy Support Corps was selected for including four of the six characteristics:

**Lasting impact on member, community, or state**  
**Exceptional and/or unique partnerships**

**Outstanding volunteer and/or resource generation**

**Potential for replication in other states**

**Supporting data to document impact**

**Cross-program connections**

In a congratulatory letter from Montana State Superintendent, Linda McCulloch wrote, “Here in Montana, we have long known that

the literacy program through WORD was one of the most effective programs around, but it's wonderful to have a national social change organization underline it for the rest of the country to see too.”

We're proud of recognition WORD, the Family Resource Centers program, and the Western Montana Literacy Support Corps received and we know it is the many parents, educators and community members who partner with us in “getting things done” who deserve recognition along with us. To view the publication “Transforming Communities Through Service” visit [www.icicp.org](http://www.icicp.org).



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 nine in a nine-part series on Family Resource Center staff)*



As the oldest of ten children, Kasey Savage learned early in her life that volunteering was essential and rewarding. “There were always babies around, and my mom did lots of volunteer work, too,” Kasey remembers.

As the Family Resource Center

Coordinator, she is a superb role model to the staff and parents at Lowell Elementary. No challenge is too great for Kasey. “We had hundreds of parents and children attend Family Fun Nights this year, and we never had to ask for food. Parents just brought it.” Many Lowell parents work during the day and Family Fun Nights provide an opportunity for parents, grandparents, neighbors, and students to relax and enjoy each other on a Friday night. With one per month, Kasey was extra busy, and recalls the most successful event was the Royal Ball in March.

Kasey appreciates the focus on literacy at Lowell, as well. The Reading is Fundamental Program (RIF) provides each student with books and Title I funds ensure student success in reading and math. With two children at the school, Kasey noticed that “my kids’ read-

ing is so advanced from the programs available at Lowell.” With the coming school year, full-day kindergarten will be available and enrollment is breaking all records. In addition, the Title I position will be full-time to support the FRC and its many literacy programs and events. Lowell Elementary is a place where wonderful things happen for children and families.

With the leadership and guidance of Kasey, the staff, and the community, Lowell students are the winners.

As a Montana summer looms, Kasey is looking forward to a mixture of family and volunteer activities. Coaching softball, supervising the Sunday school program, and counseling Girl Scout Day Camp are her child-centered endeavors. With her husband, Kasey owns four rental properties to manage, maintain, and remodel. Yet, the biggest event this summer will be traveling with the Model A Club. Renovation of a 1930 Ford Tudor Sedan provides a constant challenge to Kasey and her husband. She muses that “all the work is fun, and it’s nice to know I can do it. The kids are especially excited about driving in parades and taking tours around the state.” She smiles as she thinks about her children interacting with the older Model A crowd, and looks forward to another year at Lowell.

## *A Note from the Director*

We undertake our work in Family Resource Centers using a “strengths based” approach. Rather than placing our focus on problems, we focus on possibilities. Each community we work with has its own unique set of strengths and challenges to be considered. Although we have a number of successful strategies for developing Family Resource Centers, we know that attempting to fit a community into a pre-existing “cookie cutter” structure, just doesn’t work. More than a place, or a collection of activities, Family Resource Centers are built on positive, beneficial relationships. Family Resource Centers are learning, supportive communities.

From the standpoint of building relationships, our strengths based assumptions for each person, organization or service interacting through the center are:

Everyone has something good to offer.

All are doing the best they can with the resources they have.

Everyone has a positive intent.

Our experience is that this approach leads to positive, respectful and dynamic relationships. Realizing possibility thrives in this atmosphere.

Our lead article in this issue announces the recognition we’ve received for being “one of the best” AmeriCorps programs in the nation. Author and networking expert Susan RoAne has said, “The rewards go to the risk-takers, those who are willing to put their egos on the line and reach out to other people and to a richer, fuller life for themselves.”

The recognition we’ve received is well deserved, not only for our AmeriCorps program, but for all who have taken risks with us in shifting our eyes from the problems to the possibilities.

-Jeanne Moon

# A Fond Farewell



Qualities found within a successful person include sincerity, personal integrity, humility, courtesy, wisdom, and kindness. Pat Murphy is a successful person. She's moving on from her position with the Family Resource Centers program to new adventures as we close this program year. And though we'll miss working closely with Pat, the rich foundation she's laid for Family Resource Centers in the Bitterroot Valley will continue to serve schools, families and the communities for years to come.

Pat organized the first informational meeting at Kids First inviting Bitterroot community members to look into development of Family Resource Centers in the spring of 2002. By the fall of that year, centers were open in eight locations from Darby to Florence, largely due to Pat's community building skills. Pat joined the Literacy Support Corps in fall 2002, as the Bitterroot Team's first "team leader" giving us the benefit of her

years of education and experience managing programs, volunteers, and training. The excellent example of leadership and service she modeled as an AmeriCorps member combined with the program planning and training she continued to provide as a staff member over the next two years have been integral to the successful Family Resource Center program blossoming in western Montana.

As the Literacy Support Corps heads toward its fourth year serving in Family Resource Centers, those of us who've had the good fortune to call Pat our colleague, will carry her positive attitude and enthusiasm for this work with us. We wish Pat well in the changes she's making, and hope she'll be available every time we seek her training expertise. She's one of our favorite trainers!



## *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  
lowellfrc@mcps.k12.mt.us

Rattlesnake Elementary  
1220 Pineview  
Missoula, MT  
Jane Olson  
406-542-4914  
resfrc@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 202  
martinr@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 High School  
327 Fairgrounds Rd  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
Heidi Tosini  
406-375-6060 ext 6222  
tosinih@hsd3.org

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  
vriviera@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  
kathy.benedetti@ronank12.edu