

The Community Action Pages

Volume 5, Issue 2

Serving our Communities for over 50 years



Quilt made
by Joy For
HRDC Staff
with her letter
below.

Upcoming: 2019

Computer Lab Hours
Mondays 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Tuesdays 9:00 am - noon
Fridays 1:00 - 3:00 pm

April

4- Financial Class
6- Homebuyer Education
18- Financial Class
20- Homebuyer Education

May

2- Financial Class
4- Homebuyer Education
16- Financial Class
18- Homebuyer Education
27- Agency Closed,
Memorial Day

June

1- Homebuyer Education
13- HRDC's 6th Annual
Play Date at the Zoo
15- Homebuyer Education
29- Homebuyer Education

Like our Facebook Page
to learn about more
upcoming events!



As HRDC approaches its 54th anniversary, we look back at what we have accomplished, and, forward to the work that remains. In the last half century, HRDC has served tens of thousands of people over the five county service area as it helped to build communities. You may not be aware that HRDC is one of over 1000 community action agencies that cover 99 percent of all counties in the United States.

More often than not, when individuals and families come to HRDC for help they are in a crisis. They have lost a job, a sick family member, need assistance with housing, food, a utility bill, broken down vehicle, childcare, and a myriad of other challenges. While individuals and families often focus on the crisis, we thought you might like to see some of the agency's happy-endings. Here are a few vignettes from folks that HRDC have been able to help in many different ways through diverse programs and services.

You may not know that HRDC administers 23 programs not including, events and special projects, such as Playdate at the Zoo, Suited for Success, or the Housing Navigator Project. Many of the agency's services also target moderate-income community members including VITA, a no cost state and federal income tax preparation service for all folks making less than \$55,000. The Home Center provides individualized financial counseling, saving programs, first time homebuyers courses, and much more.

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, internships, or employment, HRDC has an ongoing need for dedicated people that enjoy helping others. Check out our website at www.hrdc7.org or visit us on Facebook. We hope you enjoy our happy endings.

Rapid Rehousing

Dear HRDC,
Thank You So Much
for helping me get into a
place. Without your help,
I'd still be in shelters, crisis
centers, and wherever else like
that. I'm no longer worried
like I was before I got approved
for a place to stay. I have
less stress, I can lock my
door and take baths in my
own bathroom. Safe from
people that wanted to hurt me.
No more drama, cold weather,
no need to find a warmer place
to stay. I really appreciate you
all. May all of you get blessed.

Sincerely,
Mahogany

Pathways and Work Experience

Dear HRDC staff,

Our family greatly appreciates the services HRDC provided to us in our difficult time of need. As a result, we were able to utilize the Pathways program, Easter Seals job search, and the Work Experience program, all of which eventually led to gainful employment. We would like you all to know what a difference you make in people's lives and how these programs give hope to individuals struggling with poverty and obstacles keeping them in poverty.

Special thank you to our Pathways client advocate Val, your patience and cheery disposition (continued inside)

Top Photo: Joy on the Left with her LIEAP Team.
Tanya, Kelly, Alicia, Kristine, Renee and Sylvia

There are many reasons why I committed to getting my HiSET.

Here are my top three; 1. personal achievement, 2. set a good example for my son, and 3. find a better job. Until I completed my HiSET, I felt like a failure for dropping out of school. Achieving my diploma makes me feel like I've accomplished something. Since graduating I have already gotten a better job and am making the money I deserve.

The Alternative Education program at HRDC was great!! Penny was the best person to work with. She scheduled time with me around my hours, and she was there when I needed her. I want to say a big thank you to HRDC and Penny for helping me accomplish my goal.

Alexandra Hirsch

Alternative Education



Weatherization

After the weatherization crew completed skirting & installing a new front entrance door, I immediately noticed the difference in the early morning kitchen temperature. This was a welcome comfort that was thoroughly enjoyed, especially the floors. I now enjoy my barefoot walk into the kitchen each morning. At my age and state of health the temperature made it difficult. Once again, I can enjoy one of my great pleasures in life, sitting at the kitchen table in the mornings, sipping on a couple cups of freshly brewed coffee and peeking out the window as I catch the early morning news and weather reports. I sit and think about my life memories; my children and grandchildren; current events, and just enjoy

life. I feel fortunate to be alive regardless of my health. I am grateful to be an American from Montana. Thanks to HRDC, I am once again able to enjoy my solitude and the quiet of early mornings as I sip my coffee, and barefoot it through the kitchen. I am 70 years old Jan 7th, 2019, and appreciate a much warmer and far more comfortable early mornings barefoot stroll in the kitchen. It makes me feel younger and stronger. I know it may just be in my mind, but I am very grateful and say from my new young heart- Thank You HRDC! Dale

Section 8 Housing

HRDC,

Thank you for all of the help we received and kindness from our case workers Charlie and Joann throughout our struggles. We look forward to our independency. -Kiana

Suited for Success

I've heard many good things about HRDC. I would like to say thank you so very much for giving me the opportunity to stop by and pick up a suit. I really like the suit I picked out (more like the suit that was picked out for me). I feel as though it was a perfect match.

My job interview went well, and I even received a compliment on how great I looked during the interview. I can't thank you enough for the opportunity HRDC provided. -Chris



Some Happy Endings From The Last Year

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Find us @
HRDC 7
Community Action Agency



Kerry

I would like to take a minute to say how thankful I am for the LIEAP program through HRDC. The program has been a huge blessing to my family. And everyone I have been in contact with through the weatherization program has been professional and kind.



Bella

recommends HRDC District 7 Community Action Agency.

This organization has helped me get back on my feet after being homeless. The case managers and staff actually want to help you and see you succeed. 10/10 world recommend ❤️



Miss Swan
Local Guide



I loved being able to get my taxes done for free



Kelly
Local Guide



They are super helpful here and they got me help with my daycare needs



(continued from front page) Pathways and Work Experience

helped to calm our situational anxiety. In addition, we extend thanks to Lisa and Adam who assisted us in Val's absence. Martecia, a special thanks to you for answering questions I had about supportive services and for your uplifting attitude and spirit.

Reception employees, Donna and Jewels, we would like to thank you for having the patience and empathy to help us figure out what we were supposed to do and where we were supposed to go to receive proper assistance with whatever issue we had been dealing with at the time.

Easter Seals team, Chris, Alex, and Stephanie, it is with great appreciation for all you do to educate individuals on necessary job search skills and your ability to direct people towards achieving their goals and having the patience and empathy to do so. Thank you for maintaining a positive attitude towards everyone.

Ashly and Carly of the Work Experience program, great thanks to both of you for helping me find HRDC's Energy Services (LIEAP) and for your positive presence throughout the process. I have attained vast amounts of knowledge during my time there and the experience has led to gainful employment.

Last, we are appreciative not just for the employees previously mentioned, but for the entire HRDC staff. What you do as individuals through your programs is priceless not only to the individuals you help but also to our communities.

Sincerely, Great Thanks and Appreciation to all of you,
Joy and Rick

Emergency Services



Dearest Penny,
I just wanted to let you know how thankful I am for all the time you spent helping me. Through the paperwork and appointments and tough days, you were there for me! So Thanks A Bunch!
Love ya Always Penny!!

The Home Center

As newlyweds, my wife and I were grateful to her parents for allowing us to temporarily live in their basement while we got situated. After a year of basement dwelling, we knew we needed a place of our own. Having never even looked at buying a house before, I met with Jeremiah for a one on one session at The Home Center. He was amazing, breaking down the complexities of different mortgages and first time buyer programs in ways that even a public school English teacher could understand.

After scouting the market and selecting a realtor, I enrolled in the Homebuyer Education class and once again, The Home Center delivered. I walked away confident that I had taken the correct steps and felt empowered to not only buy a house, but start caring for my investment with the information Jeremiah provided. Four months into owning our new home, I still refer to my class notes and check off items on my list, revisiting the solid advice I received at the Home Center.

Adam & Kate Restad






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HRDC'S 6TH ANNUAL **PLAY DATE** AT THE ZOO



 Find "HRDC's Play Date at the Zoo" on Facebook.



Face Painting
Community Resources
Family Games & Activities
Free Admission to ZooMontana
and Much More!

THURSDAY

JUNE 13
1 PM - 7 PM

Community Action, Supporting and Strengthening Families For Over 50 Years!