



2017 Newsletter, vol. 1

Annual Point in Time Survey



Volunteers at Community Crisis Center



500 filled incentive bags



Rocky students making sandwiches

Each year, HRDC participates in the nationwide Point in Time Survey of homeless individuals. On one night in January communities across the country hit the streets to survey persons who are experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Services Director, Christy Kramer, and Amy Ensign, Youth Program Director, spearheaded this year's efforts. They recruited nearly 50 staff and volunteers to assist with surveys on the night of January 26th. HRDC sent people on site to: Montana Rescue Mission's Mens and Womens Shelters, St. Vincent de Paul, The Hub, Community Crisis Center, Billings Public Library, and other locations. Staffers spoke one-on-one with people to ask them questions provided

by state and federal government. Survey responses are collected and passed on to the Montana Continuum of Care and are used in determining future funding needs in programs for the homeless.

Survey participants each receive an "incentive bag" in appreciation of their time. This year Rocky Mountain College students made over 500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to be included in the bags. Other items included bottled water, snacks, gloves, and hand warmers.

This year HRDC collected responses from 499 individuals. This number of homeless individuals represents about one-third of all homeless people residing in the state of Montana.

Child Care Programs

The Child Care Department is committed to increasing the quality of care for children in Montana. We collaborate with child care providers, parents, and local agencies to ensure we know how to best help our communities. Several of our team members participate in area meetings, coalitions, and advocacy groups.

Our Provider Services team works directly with child care facilities to assist them with gaining access to the latest in care and teaching skills, special needs care, enrolling in the STARS to Quality program, applying for grants, and training staff. Our team is also here to help if you are interested in becoming a child care provider. We bring many years of experience and training in the child care field.



We also offer services to our families. They can call, stop by our office, or apply online for the Best Beginnings Scholarship, which assists families with the cost of child care. The scholarship is awarded to families meeting income requirements during work, school/training or if a family is homeless. The family is required to pay a co-payment to the child care provider. Our case managers are available to help complete the scholarship application and answer any questions. Families can also speak with our referral specialist or go online to receive a list of child care facilities that meet their specific child care needs.

Child care services are available in the following counties: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Golden Valley, Fallon, Mussellshell, Powder River, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland, and Yellowstone.

A case manager travels to our offices in Hardin and Miles City on a weekly basis. Sheri Hanson is our Outreach Liaison and is available to travel to locations to assist with completing scholarships and/or provide information regarding our services. Sheri is available to assist families in completing the Best Beginning Scholarship at Job Service on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am and at also weekly at Billings Public Library. If you are interested in scheduling a time to meet, or would like Sheri to come and visit about the exciting things happening in our department, please contact her at 247-4701 or shanson@hrdc7.org.

UPCOMING EVENT

HRDC'S 4TH ANNUAL
PLAY DATE
AT THE ZOO

Thursday, June 15, 2017
1:00 - 7:00 p.m.
at ZooMontana
Admission is FREE!

Weatherization Program - 2016 in review

HRDC's Weatherization Program provides energy conservation services to low-income families to improve energy efficiency and ensure the health and safety of the household. Priority is given to older adults and disabled individuals.

HRDC's weatherization technicians are trained through the Montana Weatherization Training Center at Montana State University-Billings. When a home is weatherized, these trained employees come to the home and install the necessary materials.

In 2016, HRDC's weatherization services increased heating efficiency and reduced utility bills for 410 low-income participants. \$692,850 was used for new windows and doors, adding insulation to homes and mobiles, and to repair or replace inefficient or faulty furnaces. A total of 181 homes were weatherized.



Pathways Program - SUCCESS STORY

Molly enrolled in the Pathways Program (previously called the WoRC Program) in January of 2016. Since that time, Molly has been working towards her personal and employment goals with support of the program. Molly has also utilized several other agencies in Billings to help her achieve many accomplishments.

Molly successfully completed and graduated from her transitional day treatment program in November 2016. She continues to utilize services to help her gain positive support in her recovery. More importantly, Molly has maintained sobriety during all of the changes she has endured this past year. Molly has voiced that she gained several skills during this time, including budgeting and time management. It is apparent that Molly has these abilities, as she continues to do everything she can to financially support her family and work towards improving her employability. Molly enrolled in school and attends college to work towards her bachelors degree. Recently, Molly began applying for jobs so that she would be more able to afford the

expenses that come with raising a child. Molly applied, interviewed, and was hired at her current position all in one day. She maintains her employment to better support her family as she works to finish her degree.

Most recently, Molly utilized the Dress for Success program after being referred by her client advocate at HRDC. She obtained useful employment clothing and was treated to a haircut through their program as well. Because of supportive services available through Pathways, Molly was able to continue driving legally by maintaining auto insurance. She was also able to afford afterschool care needed to ensure her success during treatment, school, and work.

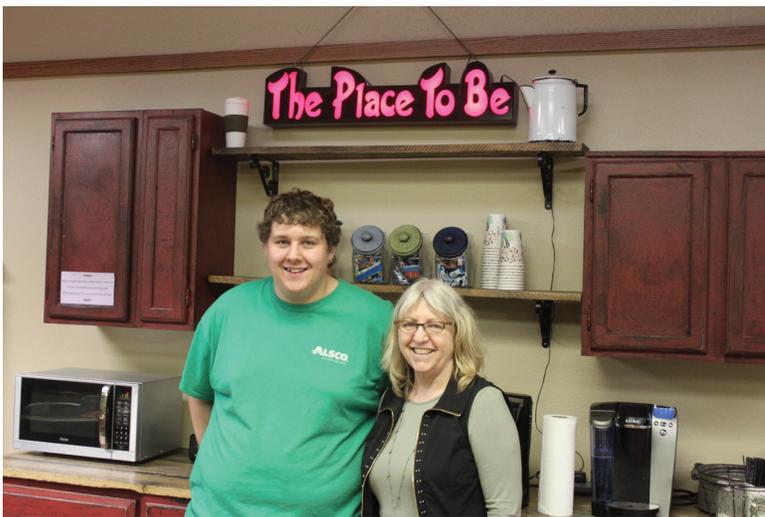
Molly's dedication and positive attitude continue to reflect in her actions and abilities to better her and her daughter's lives. Based on all of the trials that Molly has overcome during the past year, it is clear that she will achieve success, as her determination and perseverance are two of her defining characteristics.



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Alternative Education SUCCESS STORY



Matt and HRDC instructor, Penny Hudson

Matt is one of HRDC's recent success stories. Matt completed his HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) and earned his diploma with the help of the Alternative Education Program. Matt powered through the program in less than two months, a true accomplishment. He spent about 110 hours in preparation and studying.

Matt now has a job and his very own apartment. He rides his bike to work and admits that now that he's out of school, it's a bit of a challenge to live on a budget. His ultimate career goal is to become an EMT.

Matt states, "HRDC has helped me in many ways. Before I started, I had no hope in my mind for a diploma or a future of any sorts. Now, thanks to the program, my sight of what I want to be and will be has opened up, and the world is full of opportunities."

Congratulations to Matt!!!