



August/September Newsletter

Upcoming Events!

If you have an event you would like us to highlight, please let us know!

Griz Game- Concessions help needed!

This football season MIC will be staffing a concession booth at the home Griz games and we need volunteers to help out! You do not need to attend all of the games, but if you are interested in helping with a shift or a half-shift, please let us know!

Perks:

- hang out with awesome fun people!
- free entry to Griz games!
- a portion of the proceeds of concessions sold goes directly to MIC and Family Promise
- fun!!!!

Griz Game Days:

September 2nd 1pm
September 16th 1pm
September 23rd 6pm
October 14th 1pm
November 4th 3:30pm
November 11th 1pm



Volunteers Needed: Kaleidoscope Week, September 3-10

(Need from Jen- Family Promise Director)

Hi everyone!

It's that time again - Kaleidoscope Week! And we need YOUR help! I know it is a busy time of year for folks with back-to-school and Labor Day weekend, but any amount of your time helps!

Please join our inter-congregational, community effort to shelter and feed our Family Promise families next week!

Together, we can make sure the families are safe, fed, and have a great week - and maybe have a little fun ourselves!

If you have questions, or would like to sign up to volunteer please contact the MIC office 207-8228. THANK YOU- Jen

YWCA Advocate Training

Do you want to volunteer for the YWCA? Are you interested in learning how to advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the Missoula community? Then come to our next Volunteer Advocate Training! They are always looking for compassionate, dedicated volunteers.

This is a comprehensive 35-hour training. Upon completion, advocates will be qualified to answer our 24-hour crisis line, and provide crisis intervention and support to women, children and men survivors of domestic and sexual violence. To get involved, fill out a Pathways Volunteer Application. Then let the YWCA know that you're coming to training! You can view the full schedule and get an application here- [YWCA Advocate Training](#).

If you have any questions, please ask the YWCA volunteer coordinator, McKenzie Watterson at (406)543-6691 or mwatterson@ywcaofmissoula.org.

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Family Promise Update

- Currently, we have 3 families in Family Promise, 4 adults and 9 children

Family Promise Need and Story

(Shared by Jen to Family Promise Coordinators)

I wish I could tell you this update was coming with lots of exciting news, but unfortunately over at Family Promise we've had a couple of weeks that are as gloomy and frustrating as the smoke lingering in our valley.

Progress has been slow for most of our families toward gaining permanent housing, and while there are often many reasons for this, right now the issue is mostly bureaucracy - families hitting roadblock after roadblock with trying to get the needed documentation for housing and employment - and in one case, a massive failure of the system within which we are working.

In that instance, the single mom and her three kids have been with us for the better part of six months - not because she has been doing nothing, but in fact because she - and all of us - have been working hard to get her and her kids into housing and we keep coming up short. Time after time again, the system is failing her - she has come close to getting her family housed over the past three years, only to have it fall through. Most recently, we were excited she had gotten called in to the Missoula Housing Authority for a housing opportunity, after getting entered into the new Missoula Coordinated Entry system. She was called up from a waitlist for a spot and she submitted all of her documentation (and jumped through the numerous hoops set by HUD) - only to find that she doesn't actually qualify for the program because she is a few months shy of being considered "chronically homeless".

I will be honest with you all, when I sat with this mom as she cried hearing this news, I cried too. It is SO frustrating for us, and of course, ESPECIALLY for her, to push forward through challenge after challenge, to work SO hard and exhaust every avenue and possibility, only to find out it is just not good enough.

To be honest, we've sort of reached a point where I am just not sure what the next step forward is for this family. We are going to try to gather more information, advocate for them where appropriate, and hopefully get creative in finding someone who will be willing to rent to her for a reasonable amount. She will be a great tenant - she has an income, is incredibly hardworking (she just got promoted at work!), is responsible, and takes care of the space she is in. She and her kids just need someone to give them the opportunity to thrive.

Do you know someone who is a landlord, property manager, or has a private rental property that would be willing to meet with this mom and her advocate to learn more and possibly consider renting to her? Please consider trying to help us cast our net out to the Missoula community to try to create some options for her.

I don't mean to be all doom and gloom of course - we've had some great things happening too! ALPS generously donated tickets for our families to see an Osprey game this week and the kids were over the moon. (Thank you ALPS!) And this same single mom received a promotion at work, as well as a \$2 raise, in recognition of her hard work and being an excellent employee!

We were also lucky to be the recipients of some great gently used, high quality clothing and toys that were available after the Duck Duck Goose Children's Consignment Event this week. (Thanks Avorie and Duck Duck Goose!)

As always, we are so grateful for our generous contacts in our congregations and throughout the Missoula community who bring light to the lives of our families. You make it possible for our families to escape the gloom of homelessness from time to time. Here's hope you (and all of us) are also able to escape the gloom of our smoky summer sometime soon too.

MIC and Family Promise Needs

- **Snow Blower:** Jen is thinking ahead to cooler times and is looking for a snow blower for the Day Center. Do you have an extra snow blower sitting around? contact **Jen:** jencerta@micmt.org
- **Small stuffed animals:** we are hoping to give out a small stuffed animal to every child in the program. If you have new or gently used stuffed animals please contact **Jen:** jencerta@micmt.org
- **Lap tops or Desk top:** We have two new VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) starting this Monday. We are in need of a lap top or desk top for one of our new VISTAs to use at our office. If you have one you are willing to donate please contact **Rebecca:** rebecca@micmt.org
- **Printer with scanning capabilities:** We are in need of a printer with scanning capabilities for case management. If you have a printer that can scan please contact **Jen:** jencerta@micmt.org

MIC Tours

We're starting something new here at MIC, to spread the word about our work and help get more people involved! Please come yourself, and bring a friend, to a tour of the Family Promise Day Center, and learn more about all of our programs! The tours will happen once a month on the **3rd Thursday**, from **12pm-1pm**.

The next open tour will be **Thursday, October 19**, from 12pm-1pm at the Day Center. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Rebecca at MIC (207-8228 or rebecca@micmt.org) so we can get an accurate count for food :)

If October doesn't work, let us know if a future tour will work!



GET IT DONE CREW!

If you need the crew please call us: 926-3400

What It Is:

Missoula Works is an organization started by MIC with a mission to employ anyone committed to work. To do this, Missoula Works runs a staffing agency and the newest edition is the "GET IT DONE" Crew. This crew does lawn

service, building or house maintenance or most anything a person wants off their summer (now fall :)) project list.



Our Contact Information

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