



## Lolo Peak and Rice Ridge/Seeley Lake Fire Funds

United Way of Missoula County has established two emergency funds to provide assistance to people affected by the fires in our areas. All

help-seekers must demonstrate reasonably that they have been affected by the fires and that their needs are tied directly to them. Want to give to the Lolo Peak or Rice Ridge/Seeley Lake Fire Funds? Give via our secure website.

- Rice Ridge/Seeley Lake fires: <http://www.missoulaunitedway.org/seeley-lakefire-fund-2017>
- Lolo Peak fires: <http://www.missoulaunitedway.org/lolopeakfire>

For more information, call Susan Hay Patrick, CEO, United Way of Missoula County, at **406.549.6104. Need help? Call 2-1-1.**



### Casey Dunning, Executive Director

My neighborhood is designed for privacy. If I didn't want too, I would never have to see my neighbors. Unfortunately many neighborhoods are designed this way. Robert Putnam's "Bowling Alone" study measured the decline in participation in the ways we have historically come together as a society to build and stay in relationships, support each other and figure out to better our local communities. These are places like neighborhoods, the dinner table, Rotary Clubs, faith communities and city council. He said that Americans are bowling more than ever, but bowling leagues are struggling. We are "Bowling Alone". It is in this very divided and siloed context that hate, lack of awareness or indifference to our neighbor's struggles, and can thrive. It is in this context that most Missoulians don't know we can have 30 homeless families not even able to get into shelter.

MIC is about strengthening and building new bridges among our congregations and working to reweave the social fabric of our communities, all toward the end of tackling our communities' most pressing social challenges. In the past month our 20 Building Bridges-Building Leaders Partner Congregations have begun to make a move. They are training up leaders who are energized and effective at inspiring a mobilizing people to bridge new relationships, work together and tackle social challenges in a collaborative fashion. I can't wait to be a part of tackling our next social challenge together!

### Missoula Interfaith Collaborative

202 Brooks Street  
Missoula, MT 59801  
406-207-8228  
[www.micmt.org](http://www.micmt.org)



## September Newsletter 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!

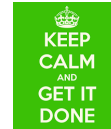
### Griz Game Days:

- September 23rd 6pm
- October 14th 1pm
- November 4th 3:30pm
- November 11th 1pm



### 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.

### MIC and Family Promise Needs

- **Snow Blower:** Contact [jencerta@micmt.org](mailto:jencerta@micmt.org)
- **Laptops or Desktop:** Contact [rebecca@micmt.org](mailto:rebecca@micmt.org)
- **Extension Ladder:** Missoula Works needs an extension ladder. Help up build this community up, up, up! Contact: [paige@missoulaworks.com](mailto:paige@missoulaworks.com).
- **Office supplies for new VISTAS:** yellow legal pads, surge protectors, small wastebasket, binder clips, pens and pencils, desk sanitizing wipes, Kleenex, stacking desk trays, highlighters, cork pin board, thumbtacks, thank you cards. Contact [Rebecca@micmt.org](mailto:Rebecca@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.**

There are two spots left on the **September 21** tour from **12pm-1pm** at the Day Center. The next open tour will be **Thursday, October 19**. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Rebecca at MIC (**207-8228** or [rebecca@micmt.org](mailto: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!**

### Welcome New AmeriCorps VISTA Members

Please join us in welcoming Miclan and Lili as the new AmeriCorps VISTAs working at MIC. Poverty can take many forms, which is why VISTA's model is driven directly by communities in need. The AmeriCorps VISTA mission is to strengthen organizations that alleviate poverty through volunteering and the mobilization of resources.



**Miclán:** I am a recent college grad working with the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC) to expand the Housing Advocacy volunteer program. This program is meaningful to me because I know that trying to live without permanent housing makes everything else in life more difficult. MIC shows what communities can accomplish when they work together toward a common goal, and I look forward to working with you all to create a Missoula where no one goes without shelter.



**Lili:** I'm excited to begin working with MIC. I serve with AmeriCorps because I believe in helping to create an equal world for all people. During my time with MIC, I'll be working with the Missoula community closely. Keep a look out for the videos we'll be producing that facilitate and empower individuals to share their stories! The videos will help reduce barriers to families and individuals with a criminal background.

### We've Joined Amazon Smile

Please choose "Missoula Interfaith Collaborative" as your AmazonSmile giving partner. Amazon donates **0.5%** of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Step 1: Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

Step 2: Sign into Your Amazon Account.

Step 3: Select Your Charitable Organization, "**Missoula Interfaith Collaborative.**"

Step 4: Make your selection. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3396495>

Step 5: Thank you!

### Thank you Makenna!

Even our Littles understand compassion and empathy. When MIC posted in their newsletter that a homeless child was in need of dolls and toys, 10-year-old Makenna

filled a huge bag filled with dolls for a fellow child in need. Way to go, Makenna! Thank you for being an asset to our community.

### Faith In Action: Announcements from our Partner Organizations

- **United Way, September 11.** The Western Montana Suicide Prevention Initiative is galvanizing our community for National Suicide Prevention Week. Visit [wmspi.org](http://wmspi.org).
- **Soft Landing Missoula, September 15-24.** Soft Landing Missoula (SLM) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are organizing Missoula's first annual Welcoming Week. Call 406-493-0504.
- **MIC and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, October 4 and 5.** Leadership Intensive at St. Paul's.  
**December 12 from 12-1:30.** Action Meeting at St. Paul's.
- **Union Gospel Mission, October 18 at 7 and 7:10.** Movie: First published in 2006, *Same Kind of Different as Me* tells the true story of an unlikely friendship between well-to-do art dealer Ron Hall and Denver Moore, a man whose life began in brutally oppressive conditions on a Louisiana plantation. Tickets are \$25 to help feed the homeless. Call 406-728-5538 to purchase advanced tickets- showing at Missoula AMC theater.  
**Volunteers needed for Day Center/Warming Shelter**-features warm drinks, meals, and a place to sleep. Open 11pm-6am any day of the week below 11 degrees. The shelter is aiming to be open 7 days a week this year, but they need volunteers to help through the end of March.
- **Faith and Climate Action Montana, October 23.** Gathering with anyone and everyone to talk and make action regarding the climate and other topics. Contact [faithandclimateactionmt@gmail.com](mailto:faithandclimateactionmt@gmail.com).
- **Child Bridge**-Currently there are 320 children in Missoula in need. Tricia goes out to recruit families to help. She is hoping to give a sermon or talk at your congregation to talk about Child Bridge. Contact Tricia 406-837-2247 or [info@childbridgemontana.org](mailto:info@childbridgemontana.org).
- **Holy Spirit Church**-Hellgate Highschool Book Drive was very successful! Eight congregations were involved.
- **Sunburst Mental Health**-Sunburst Community Service Foundation creates opportunities for growth with individuals, families, and communities through mental health services, family support, arts, and education. They will work with individuals' pay plans to help with Mental Health. They will coordinate with organizations if needed. Call 406-203-9948.
- **UCC of Missoula and the Poverello Center** are hoping to find two congregations to help with \$80/month for three months to help with the start of a recycling program. Contact UCC of Missoula 406-543-6952 or the Poverello Center 406-728-1809.
- **Echo Church** is looking for congregations, churches, mentors, and funding to start a group open to men or women with sexual sins or an internet pornography addiction. Call 406-274-2082.

