



MIC

MISSOULA INTERFAITH COLLABORATIVE

HOUSING ADVOCATE NETWORK • FAMILY PROMISE • MISSOULA WORKS • BUILDING BRIDGES, BUILDING LEADERS

MIC's New Faces



Cat Driscoll



Sarah Nesci



Grace Benasutti

Cat is the Jesuit Volunteer Corp Northwest-Americorps member working as the Case Manager at Family Promise. Born and raised in Massachusetts, Cat is a recent graduate from Boston College (and unfortunately, no, she does not have a Boston accent). She came out to Missoula for the beautiful landscape, wonderful city, and to work with MIC. Cat is passionate about advocating for people, and working with them in an empowerment dynamic so that people can use their own voice and learn to advocate for themselves. When not in the office, you can find Cat hiking, practicing yoga, reading, or hanging out with her wonderful roommates.

Sarah is originally from Connecticut, but has come to Montana to work for MIC as an AmeriCorps VISTA member. She joined MIC because she believes in the power of community and leveraging the strengths of the community to help make positive, sustainable changes. At MIC, she will specifically be working to help create a glass recycling program. This program will not only help Missoula's Zero Waste Initiative, but also contribute to the job opportunities available for those within the Missoula Works program.

Grace is new to Missoula as of August and is a Jesuit Volunteer at MIC working with Missoula Works and the Housing Advocate Network. Grace is so excited to be a part of this organization and help people overcome barriers to housing and employment. She grew up in the small town of Ridgway, Colorado and attended the University of San Diego from 2014-2018. She recently graduated with a Bachelors of Business Administration and a Minor in Psychology. She has an immense love for the outdoors, seasons, art, and good food and company!

AmeriCorps VISTA and Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest

MIC has been collaborating and hosting members from AmeriCorps VISTA as well as Jesuit Volunteer Corps North West. Here is a bit more about what these programs do.

AmeriCorps VISTA is a national service program dedicated to being a catalyst for change in America. VISTA members work to create sustainable and efficient practices at their placements through capacity building projects. The program partners with a variety of different organizations, with most members serving one-year terms. MIC is one of the non-profit

organizations that utilizes AmeriCorps VISTA members to help them achieve their mission. Sarah's capacity building project at MIC is to create a glass recycling program for the City of Missoula. She is in the process of getting it up and running, along with her co-worker Ted. Keep an eye out for an upcoming news about their start-up, Recycling Works Inc.

Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest responds to local community needs in the Pacific Northwest by placing volunteers who provide value- centered service grounded in the Jesuit Catholic tradition. Honoring the Divine at work in all things, we envision the Northwest as a sustainable region where all live in dignity, are treated justly, and actively contribute to their own empowerment and positive change in their communities. Currently, Missoula is hosting three Jesuit Volunteers, two Jesuit Volunteers (Cat and Grace) serving at MIC and one other Jesuit Volunteer is serving as the Family Assistance Coordinator with St. Francis Xavier Parish and the International Rescue Committee.



Missoula Works Update

Recently, Steve Brester from Missoula Works had the opportunity to share his story at the Missoula story-telling event Tell Us Something. If you missed it, or want to listen to it again, find it here [Its Complicated, October 2, 2018 Tell Us Something](#).

In Steve's own words:

"Recently, MIC had a working retreat and I had the opportunity to tell Jen Certa the story of how I ended up at Missoula Works. Immediately, she told me about "Tell us Something" and why I should pitch my story.

As I expected, my story was chosen and I was set to tell it on October 2nd. This gave me a couple of weeks to work on my story because I had very much to tell in just 10 minutes.

It also gave me a couple of weeks to have worry, stress, and anxiety about this adventure! I really had a tough time whittling my story to fit in the 10 minute time frame.

When I actually got on stage to tell my story, I had an unexpected calm come over me and I told the story I had rehearsed at least 100 times. In ten minutes I was able to give context to my alcoholism and how my addiction to pain pills controlled my life. I talked about losing my career and how a car crash and brain injury changed me. And I was able to tell hundreds of people how I stole pills and was charged with Felony crimes. But the most important part of the story was how I overcame all of that, and even as a convicted felon, I am working at Missoula Works and changing people's lives! My life has purpose and meaning again. Sobriety has allowed me a second chance."

We are fortunate to know you Steve and work with you every day!



Even though its cold outside, Missoula Works and Get It Done are still hard at work! Call us today.

Call (406) 926-3400 to schedule a project now!

Find us on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/missoulaworksMIC/>

We are looking for the following items. If you can help out, please call us (406) 926-3400 or drop them at our office, 3rd floor of St. Paul Church (202 Brooks)

- We are in need of hats, gloves, and socks! While the temperatures are dropping we still have people showing up every day for work, sometimes without these necessary items.
- \$5.00-\$10.00 Gift Cards to any of the following: grocery stores, gas, coffee, etc.



HAN UPDATE

This time last year HAN was a small volunteer force of everyday Missoulians who wanted to help their fellow Missoulians find housing. Now the volunteer force has grown to 38 Housing Advocates and there are multiple ways people can become involved and volunteer their time.

Family mentoring:

Meet weekly with family in their home

-Participant can identify areas they need support in

-Connect to services in community

-Connect individual with healthy social networks

-Budget assistance if needed

-Staying connected with Housing Navigator

Housing Advocacy for potential Family Promise participants:

Meet weekly with participant

-Participant can identify areas they need support in

-Connect to services in community

-Connect individual with healthy social networks

-Budget assistance if needed

-Staying connected with Housing Navigator

Contact MIC Housing Advocate Network Director to learn how to get involved!

406.207.8228 ext 305

marilyn@micmt.org

The Missoula Ministerial Association

invites you to

Join Us

For our 5th Annual Community

THANKSGIVING EVE

Prayer Service

Benefiting Family Promise of Missoula

Wednesday, November 21st at 7:00 PM

Atonement Lutheran Church

2205 34th Street, Missoula

*Pie Reception
to Follow!*



Blessed Trinity Catholic Community Presents...

No Room at the Inn

A Festival of Crèches



Save the Date!



Gala - Friday, December 14

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Creche Display - Saturday, December 15

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Blessing - Sunday, December 16

12:30 pm, Gingerbread Tea

Events will take place at Blessed Trinity located at 1475 Eaton - 406.721.2405



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Are you a Thrivent member?

Do you have an Action Team that MIC can utilize?

Please contact us so that we can talk to you about an upcoming event that would be a great use of Thrivent Action Teams!

Call 406-207-8228 or email rebecca@micmt.org

amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

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.

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!

*****MIC has a diverse group of partners. Below are the programs, projects, and opportunities from our partner organizations. MIC does not necessarily endorse any of the following projects.*****

Essential Eats Distributors

"Serving hard to reach populations facing food insecurity"

Essential Eats Distributors (EED) begins to make its plan to once again help feed those who might go hungry for the November holiday by providing 200 turkeys. EED will be providing 200 turkeys to the Blackfeet Nation specifically the Medicine Bear Shelter's holiday dinner and the residential communities of Heart Butte, Babb, Blackfoot and East Glacier on November 19th. The fundraising goal for this year's turkey donations is \$2,000. For every \$10 donation a 12lbs turkey will be delivered to the Blackfeet Nation for a family in need. If you are interested in supporting this cause you can make a tax deductible donation by credit card on the Essential Eats Distributor's website or send a check to 1139 Harrison, Missoula, MT 59802. If you have any questions please reach out to us at (406) 829-6348



Our Contact Information

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative

202 Brooks Street

Missoula, MT 59801

406-207-8228

[www.micmt.org?blm_aid=72151]www.micmt.org