



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

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

-Mother Teresa

## End of Year Issue

A Look Back Over 2019

We have less than **ONE MILLION DOLLARS** left to raise! Thank you to all who have been helping to raise funds and awareness about the Meadowlark, the Emergency Family Housing Center & Domestic Violence Shelter, a partnership between MIC and the YWCA Missoula. Please continue to spread the message about this project. If you haven't had the opportunity to donate, make your tax-deductible donation at

[See Them Home](#)

**You're invited!** We're Almost Home Celebration Gala St. Anthony Social Hall, 217 Tremont, Missoula **Saturday, January 18, 2019 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Come join the many Family Promise communities who have contributed to the See Them Home Campaign. Celebrate our investment in the Meadowlark Family Housing Center. Hors d'oeuvres, dessert, cash bar, raffles and prizes. Emcee Alicia Bullock-Muth. Kindly RSVP [micmt.org/family-promise](http://micmt.org/family-promise) or message 207-8228 by January 11, 2020.



**Still have a Houses for Change house?** It's time to drop them off. Come by MIC's new space at Atonement Lutheran and say hi. Thank you for participating!

## Housing Advocate Network

- We're gearing up for the next edition of **Project Community Connect**, which is an all-day one-stop resource shop for folks to connect to resources, learn about employment opportunities, pick up clothing or get a haircut - plus new this year is "Homeless Court", an opportunity to get some assistance quashing misdemeanor violations, etc. This year's event happens **Friday, Jan. 31**, at Revive Church, 2811 Latimer. **Volunteers are needed!**
- **Salvation Army's winter shelter program** works to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness gain access to - or maintain - housing during the coldest months by leveraging funds for either rent or deposit. For information on qualifications, or to pick up an application, stop by the facility at 355 S Russell or call 549-0710. The program includes extra cash incentive for folks who undergo educational programming, like a budget workshop.

Every day, hundreds of individuals and families in Missoula face the stresses of homelessness. While they sit on waiting lists, volunteers with MIC's Housing Advocate Network help keep them connected to resources and community. Interested in being trained as a volunteer? Call 207-8228, ext. 5, or email [zeke@micmt.org](mailto:zeke@micmt.org)

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The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Missoula Edgewater **donated four rooms for Family Promise** from December 15th through the 22nd. Volunteers also brought meals every day. This was a fantastic week for the families and a generous donation of approximately \$3000!

**This year, we sheltered 12 families, and are currently sheltering 4 more.** We helped house 8 families, all of whom are still in stable housing with the help of Family Mentoring and continued support from MIC. New overnight host groups added to the rotation are Individuals from the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, DoubleTree, Sleep Inn, and Staybridge. Providence Health** has joined to provide meals and volunteers. Emergency on-call rotation answered by volunteers is beginning in 2020. Two JV's have been tremendous support to the program.

**Still feel like giving? Gas cards or gift cards for families are always helpful.** The Day Center appreciates kitchen and bathroom cleaning supplies, including paper towels. Thank you! For drop-off information, give us a call at (406) 207-8228.

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## Missoula Works



truck!

This allows our teams to double the number of jobs they can complete and give 2-3 more marginalized Missoulians access

Get It Done's new



**GET IT DONE.** SNOW REMOVAL RATES

1/2" - 2" \$60/Hour\*\*  
2" - 4" \$70/Hour\*\*  
> 4" \$80/Hour\*\*

Ice Melt- Eco/Pet Friendly - \$5/Application\*\*

Must have credit card on file.  
\*\*Half hour minimum charge.  
†Additional charges in 1/100th min. increments.  
\*\*up to 5 lbs.

Call (406) 926-3400 or email us at [getitdone@missoulaworks.com](mailto:getitdone@missoulaworks.com) to learn more and sign up!

**Don't forget to plan ahead for snow removal!**

to employment! Support our mission of empowering people through employment! Call us first! (406) 926-3400 or email us at

[getitdone@missoulaworks.com](mailto:getitdone@missoulaworks.com)

## Recycling Works

**43,000 tons!**



**We sent this first shipment down to Salt Lake City in November!**

### Upcoming events!

- Drop-off event **March 1st**
- Sarah will be at the University on the Zero Waste panel on **March 5th.**

## 2019

- Added **\$80,000 of recycling infrastructure** with the construction of our transfer station and the new hydraulic Big Red trailer.
- We have over **500 customers** (518 to be exact!)
- We're now recycling **a quarter million pounds of glass per year.**

RECYCLING WORKS IS NOW PICKING UP FROM ALL OF MISSOULA. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT MISSOULA'S ONLY GLASS RECYCLER.

We offer:

- **Once-monthly glass** pick-up schedule.
- **Every week compost** pick-up.

Sign up here: [Recycling Works](#)

Thank you everyone for making Missoula more sustainable.

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## Bridges & Leaders

MIC's Community Organizing Program, Bridges and Leaders, had an amazing year in 2019! We **trained over 130 institutional, community leaders** in the methods and practices of community organizing, storytelling, and effective public engagement. We **turned out an average of 50 people belonging to over 30 member organizations** to our monthly strategic leadership meetings. On **3 different occasions**, we drew over 200 people as well as local elected officials to **3 public assemblies concerning statewide Medicaid Expansion, funding for mental health care, and issues affecting housing affordability for low to medium-income earners living in Missoula.**

Currently, Bridges and Leaders is in a power-building phase. We are solidifying trained Core Teams of leaders within each of our member organizations. We are collaborating with a wider array of community organizations on common pressures facing everyday Missoulians. We are making plans to broaden our base of committed partnerships in order to leverage our strengths and enact change for the common good.



If you or your organization, institution, or congregation want to be a part of these efforts, please contact Stacey Siebrasse at [stacey@micmt.org](mailto:stacey@micmt.org)! We have a lot to look forward to in 2020!

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## Welcome Back

**Welcome Back** is a coalition of individuals directly impacted by incarceration who are joined by community supporters to discuss the impacts of incarceration and re-entry, and to work together towards breaking down the barriers to re-entry. We do this through regular social gatherings and fellowship, through direct mentoring and advocacy with folks coming out of the corrections system, and by organizing to identify the pressures impacting these individuals and working with community partners to identify solutions.



**Join Welcome Back at its monthly potluck 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Find us on Facebook or e-mail.**

[welcomeback2missoula@gmail.com](mailto:welcomeback2missoula@gmail.com)

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## Inspiring Stories

Given the choice of staying in a dysfunctional relationship or packing up her two kids and heading out, Lor did what many good mothers do: She stayed. For years she stayed. Her kids needed their dad. They needed his support and income. Where would she go, anyway? Finally, late last year, he made the decision for them.

“A lot of people don’t understand, but domestic violence is mental as well,” she said. “I was mentally incapable of leaving because he had the money. And had he not left? I’d still be in that situation.”

Lor and the boys moved into the best place she could afford on short notice – a trailer that reeked of cat urine and was infested with bugs. She didn’t get along with the landlord and he gave her notice to get out, so Lor and the boys hit the streets. For six weeks last summer, the three shuffled back and forth from motel to motel at a total cost of \$2,000. She dropped application fees at four different places and was denied by each of them. She made it to the top of the list for subsidized housing, but just before she was to move in, she learned that her application was again denied. Lor found out the hard way that the balance of power is tipped heavily in favor of the landlord, and her previous landlord was not keen on letting bygones be bygones. “I felt defeated,” she said. “I had money, but the landlord was giving me a bad reference. And it was lies.”

She tried Family Promise, but didn’t think it would work for her disabled son. She even spent a weekend camping in a tent so that she might qualify for the YWCA’s emergency housing for families, but learned even that shelter had a waiting list. In Missoula, there are no other emergency options until the Meadowlark opens. [seethemhome.org](http://seethemhome.org)

In August, Lor reached out to the Housing Advocate Network for help. She got a match – a woman named Kat who works at the YMCA – and who spent some time working at a homeless shelter in Kansas. Kat said she didn’t do much for Lor except provide support and a listening ear. She also helped Lor write a letter of explanation – a plea, if you will, for a prospective landlord to overlook the bad reference of the former. “You can’t save someone or fix someone, you can just accompany them on their journey where they’re at,” Kat said. So she just met with Lor, talked with her, learned a little about her story, and told her that she believed in her. For Lor, it was just the right time to enlist some moral support: In September, she found a compassionate ear. A private landlord said she could move in to his two-bedroom for \$875 per month but that she would have until the end of September to pay the security deposit and last month’s rent. She would also need application approval.

“I didn’t want to lie,” she said. “So when I went with him I battled: Should I lie? Should I fabricate just a little bit? When I met with him he said, ‘I really appreciate honesty.’ I was on my way out the door. I said, ‘If I’m going to be honest, I need to tell you about my last landlord.’ And I told him.”

He understood, and she and the boys moved in. She worked her tail off to come up with some extra money. She reached out and got some support from Missoula agencies, but in the end the new landlord wrote off the the remaining balance.

Would Lor have found a place to live without Kat? Probably. She’s certainly not lacking in resourcefulness. She had the job, she had the income. She had her faith. But meeting up with Kat and having another person to shoulder some of the hopelessness was real. Lor said it was simply this – human relationship – that helped her believe hope was ahead. “Sometimes you just need a cheerleader,” she said.

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## Easy ways to give to MIC!



### 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](mailto:rebecca@micmt.org)

*Every act of your generosity helps us to further our mission. Thank you for making the world a better place. Love from Family Promise, Housing Advocate Network, MIC, Missoula Works, and Recycling Works.*

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## **MIC and Missoula Works MOVED!**

The MIC and Missoula Works offices have moved! We are now located at Atonement Lutheran Church, **2205 34th St.** at the corner of Schilling and 34th street, near the Brooks Street Missoula Federal Credit Union. Thank you St. Paul Lutheran Church for hosting us for these last six years, and thank you for still housing Recycling Works! Many more exciting updates to come!

### **Our Contact Information**

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative

2205 34th Street

Missoula, MT 59801

406-207-8228

[[www.micmt.org?blm\\_aid=72151](http://www.micmt.org?blm_aid=72151)][www.micmt.org](http://www.micmt.org)