

A Message from the President

West Mont is about CONNECTION.

I recently heard a story about a young man with a disability who works in a grocery store. During his work hours, there are people who will wait in that checkout line even if others are available because they have come to know him, not as a person with a disability, or even a grocery clerk, but as a friend.

Wouldn't it be great if that were the norm for all people with disabilities? CONNECTION is a theme at West Mont and we strive each day to make sure that our staff and clients develop that value.



Ashleigh Heimbach

Connection is one of our core values. It is about having relationships with others that are personal and life-giving. It is about encouraging and appreciating others. It is something we value for everyone associated with West Mont – people served, donors and volunteers, our workforce, families, and guardians.

In the last year, keeping those connections going for the people we support at West Mont has been challenging, but our workforce and those they serve rose to the occasion. Working together, they found ways to do everything from exercise, take on new art projects, a prom-like event coming soon and so much more in the virtual world.

It was so good for my heart to hear stories of the many online events for people. More than a few times, I heard about how joyful someone responded when they saw a family member via the laptop or cell phone whom they had not seen in a while. Connecting with one another and building relationships is important for everyone. People who have disabilities want to be seen as people.

A disability is a part of who they are, but it does not define who they are any more than one word defines who I am as a person.

I am a daughter, aunt, friend, CEO, rockhound, online shopper and more. All those words could be used to describe different people within West Mont, not just myself. When we make connections, we learn all those things about one another. Connections make us move past any labels and simply see a person – most often, a friend.

As people we support have gotten their vaccinations, they are starting to venture out more often and I am glad for that. This month, look for opportunities to connect with people who have disabilities. It may be a retail setting, or your gym, or any other place in the community. You may find a new friend when you make a connection.



2021 Greater Helena Gives Campaign Surpasses Goal

A shout out of thanks to the 43 generous donors that donated to this year's Greater Helena Gives Campaign. They helped us surpass our \$7,500 goal by \$80.00! The funds raised this year are going towards PPE, hand sanitizer, and will help fund improvements to the grounds at our Tara facilities making them fully ADA accessible. **THANK YOU** for helping us make a difference in the lives of so many.

At right: one of the narrow sidewalks currently at our Tara facilities.





West Mont in the Spotlight

Things are Blooming at our Flower & Trading Co.



Shani Henry

We have had a busy and productive year at the flower shop! In February, we were thrilled to be named the **Best Flower Shop and Best Plant Nursery** in the **Independent Record's Best of Helena Awards!** This is a tremendous honor for such a relatively young business.

Flower shop **Retail Manager, Shani Henry** says, "Despite Covid limitations we have continued to grow our business. We worked hard on no contact deliveries and customers truly supported us. We believe sales may have been boosted by families sending flower deliveries to loved ones whom they could not visit. Our **WinterFest** event expanded with the new Christmas tree lot. As a result, we had a nice increase in poinsettia and wreath sales. We look forward to expanding that even more this next year and selling additional handmade items at the tree lot. Valentine's Day sales were great and in March, we held a **Raise a Cup** fundraising event that surpassed our expectations. Our Mother's Day week sales nearly doubled this year! This spring, we have wide selection of hanging baskets and garden planters for sale."



Floral arrangements available for any occasion!



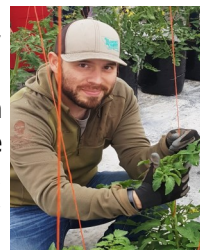
Amber assists a customer at the Raise a Cup event

The beautiful garden is in great shape. Recently improvements were made to the walkways and new gravel was added. They are also expanding the variety of plants grown here to increase our use of homegrown products in the shop, particularly for weddings. All our clients are back at work including a couple of new additions which is exciting! Stop by the shop to check out our beautiful floral arrangements, plants, and unique gifts. Or give us a call at **406-447-3123**

WESTMONT Life on the Farm **FARM & GARDENS**

As is typical this time of year, things are busy, busy, busy at the **Farm & Gardens**. The greenhouses are brimming with red and green as the tomatoes are beginning to ripen for the upcoming harvest. We have several new varieties this year as well as a few varieties of peppers. We will be at the local **Farmer's Market beginning June 5th** so look for our tent.

We are also developing a few additional opportunities to keep our clients engaged and busy as well as generate extra income. We have started building picnic tables, both full sized and children sized. For the avid hunter, **Farm Retail Manager, Jeremiah Porter** came up with the idea of offering animal skull cleaning. He says, "With spring hunting season upon us, we have received a few animal skulls for our beetles to clean. If you are wondering what this is, we have a beetle box at the farm that cleans the flesh off animal skulls. This has proved very popular with successful sportsmen." To learn more, contact Jeremiah at **406-227-7565**.



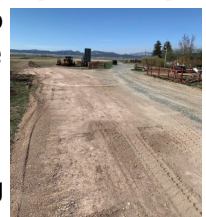
Jeremiah Porter



The Farm now has bedding plants for sale.

Bedding plants are now available for sale out at the Farm. Our hours are **Monday - Friday, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM**. In preparation for our **Wake the Giant Festival**, the road to enter our Farm has been widened allowing vehicles to enter and exit at the same time.

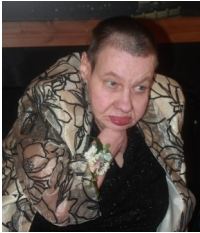
Our pumpkin patch will be planted at the end of May and we will be ready for an October harvest. We are also in the process of moving and enlarging the petting zoo. It is our intent to provide more animals for our clients and the public to enjoy. That's it for now...have a wonderful summer everyone.



The Farm's new entrance

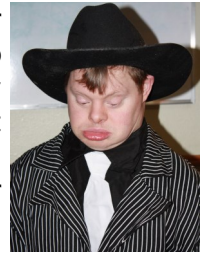


In Memory of...



Mary Zent

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of six members of our West Mont Family. On November 5, 2020, we lost two clients, **Mary Zent** who passed away at age 68 and **Ron Nye** who was 57. Mary valiantly battled many medical ailments for many years. In 1981, she began receiving services at West Mont and was a Hillside resident at the time of her passing. Ron began receiving our services in 1985. He was a resident at our Townsend House. Over the years, he participated in various West Mont vocational programs.



Ron Nye

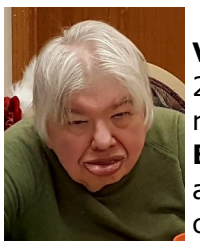


John Kirley

John Kirley was a 30+ year vocational client at West Mont. In May 2018, he became a resident at Townsend House. On November 22, 2020, he passed away of complications from Alzheimer's Disease. John was very active over the years. For a time, he worked in the community and then at our Blaine Work Services. John was 56 years old at the time of his passing. We learned former client **Duane Gervais** passed away on his 57th birthday on December 16, 2020, from complications due to Epilepsy. He had received services from us from 1980 until 2019 and was active in a variety of activities over the years including Special Olympics and West Mont day programs.

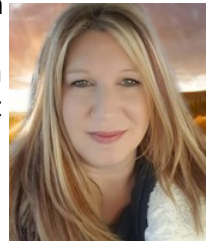


Duane Gervais



Valorie Morris

Valorie Morris began residential and vocational services from West Mont in 2007. She passed away in January 2021 just before her 74th birthday. She was residing at Lewis & Clark at the time of her passing. On March 9, 2021, **Laura Barrett**, our payroll coordinator for 2 1/2 years, passed away unexpectedly at age 48 from a pulmonary embolism. Laura was very compassionate. She had a contagious smile and her bubbly personality was a joy to be around. The office just isn't the same without her.



Laura Barrett

All of these people touched many lives at West Mont and we miss them tremendously.

Change for the Future! An update from VP of Operations, Patrick Sheehan

Recently, West Mont introduced two new positions to our Operations Department. These positions are Direct Support Professional Manager and Program Coordinator. The new positions are an intricate part for the future of West Mont and will provide a new level of stability to our group homes and vocational sites.

Three Program Coordinators will provide administrative and operational support to the multiple locations they oversee. This position will bridge the gap between the Administrative office and the numerous locations throughout Helena. West Mont has a lot of new mid-level managers and in conjunction with the current Program Managers, West Mont will prepare these new managers to lead the new generation of West Mont staff. Also, it will not be an uncommon occurrence to see the Program Coordinators on the frontlines teaching our new staff members how to properly care for individuals with disabilities.



Patrick Sheehan

The position of Direct Support Professionals Managers will provide the extra support to the Program Manager at the group home or vocational site they are assigned, but this position will also be a "Program Manager in Training." The Direct Support Professional Manager will be able to do all the job duties of current Program Managers at West Mont and be able to step in at any group home or vocational site in the absence of a Program Manager.

These positions are an exciting expansion of West Mont and will enable us to help serve more individuals with disabilities in the future. We look forward to investing in the future of our employees through these changes!

West Mont Locations

Blaine Work Services:

406-447-3119

Caldwell House

Cedar Apartments

Farm Group Home

Farm Vocational:

406-227-7565

Flower & Trading Co.

406-447-3123

Hillside Group Home

Humbolt Apartments

Lewis & Clark Duplex

Melodee House

Ron's Place

Supported Employment:

406-447-3111

Tara Group Home

Tara Apartments

Townsend Group Home

VASTT

For more information call:

406-447-3100 or email:

wmooffice@westmont.org

Visit our website:

www.westmonthelena.com

Follow us on



Creating Opportunities that Promote Respect and Quality of Life for People With Disabilities



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Get Ready to WAKE THE GIANT

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 28** and plan to join us for the **Wake the Giant Music Festival!** West Mont is partnering with Lewis & Clark Brewery to bring you a full-day of music. The event will be held at **West Mont Farm & Gardens** located at **3240 York Road**. The music starts at 12:30 PM and continues until 10:00 PM.

There will be an all star lineup of incredible bands including **Whitey Morgan & the 78's, Mike Ryan, Sunny Sweeney, Levi Blom, Insufficient Funds, 10 Years Gone, and John Montoya**. A variety of food vendors will be on site along with beer and wine available for purchase.

Buy your tickets online at **406Tix.com**. Early Bird tickets: \$40, at the Door: \$45.

A **limited number** of VIP Tickets are available for \$100. VIP Tickets include VIP parking, VIP Bleacher seating and seat cushion, VIP Event Lanyard, VIP/Staff tent with water and snacks, VIP Port-a-potty and wash station. For additional information, call West Mont: **406-447-3100**. Then prepare to **WAKE THE GIANT!**

WAKE THE GIANT MUSIC FESTIVAL

A PHENOMENAL FESTIVAL FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

John Montoya • Ten Years Gone
Insufficient Funds • Levi Blom

Sunny Sweeney
MIKE RYAN
WHITEY MORGAN & THE 78'S