

# West Mont Times

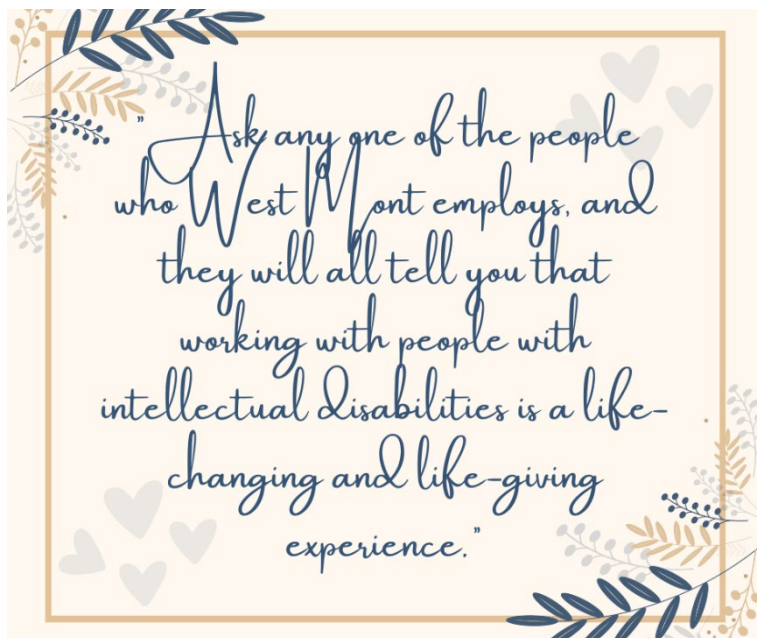
2nd Biannual Newsletter 2022

Editor: Janelle Egli

## A Message from the President: Six Things West Mont Is Grateful For



1. **Direct Service Professionals.** Time and time again West Mont's direct service professionals step up to the plate. Whether it's through finding creative ways to make sure that the people we serve can lead a meaningful life or completing mounds and mounds of paperwork, we know we can count on our workforce because they care so deeply about the people we support.
2. **Families, especially parents.** Caring for a child with an intellectual disability is a life-changing event for a family and the decision to seek services outside the home is made with great care and consideration. When a family selects West Mont as their service provider, we understand that it is a privilege for us to partner with the family and care for and advocate for their loved one. Thank you for trusting us to create a caring community for a person you love.
3. **Donors.** Donors help West Mont fill the gap between what money a person receives and what it takes to lead a meaningful life. Donations help us make sure that teeth are cleaned, iPads to help with communication are purchased, and Christmas parties are festive celebrations. Every gift of whatever size is an opportunity for transformation.
4. **Employers.** One of the biggest goals that most of the people we serve have is that they want to work. Employment is a huge cultural value in the United States. Unfortunately, people with intellectual disabilities struggle to obtain work—not because of a lack of skill on the person's part, but because of a lack of awareness in society. We're grateful to the many employers in Helena who employ a person West Mont supports. It makes a huge difference for everyone involved.



5. **Advocates.** Without the work of advocates, we wouldn't be able to give a voice to the issues and concerns of people with intellectual disabilities. We're especially grateful for the work of self-advocates, who have paved the way for legislation like the Achieving a Better Life Balance Act (ABLE Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

6. **People with Intellectual Disabilities.** Ask any one of the people who West Mont employs, and they will all tell you that working with people with intellectual disabilities is a life-changing and life-giving experience. We're grateful for the lessons they teach, their unique abilities and personalities, and the gifts they bring to the world. We are better because of it.

*What are you grateful for?*

Christmas Trees

Wreaths

Charitable Raffles

Food/Drink



Holiday Gifts

Giving Tree

Live Music

Winterfest SAT DEC 3  
10 am to 3 pm

# AND CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

NOV 25 - DEC 11 / WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Lewis & Clark Tap Room 1535 Dodge Ave (access via Montana Ave)

## Christmas Tree Lot

You are invited to join us at the Lewis & Clark Tap Room Friday, November 25th, "Black Friday," through Sunday, December 11th (or until supplies last).



We'll be selling Christmas trees, wreaths, tree stands, gift certificates for seasonal produce from our farm and/or flower arrangements from our flower shop, pottery, popped popcorn, s'mores, and hot drinks.

We'll also have some unique giving opportunities for all the givers in attendance. Our Giving Tree will have gift tags that represent needs at our vocational and residential sites and detail the Christmas wishes of our clients. Our onsite raffles (\$5-20/ticket) will feature a Traeger Grill donated by Costco Warehouse, Helena Symphony Concert Season Tickets donated by the Helena Symphony, and Season Alpine Ski Rental Packages donated by Capital Sports.

Lot hours are Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, and Sunday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

All proceeds will go to the West Mont Foundation to benefit adults with disabilities.



## Winterfest

Come to the Lewis & Clark Tap Room on Saturday, December 3rd for Winterfest, a FREE, family friendly event with something for everyone.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to greet the little ones and wish attendees happy holidays, and the talented [Brian Kassay](#) from Bozeman's bluegrass band [Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs](#) will be performing live music from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Our Tree Lot will be running concurrently, so you can squeeze in some holiday shopping while the festivities are in full swing.



## Gratitude and Gifts

'Tis the season for giving and gratitude, and West Mont is gearing up for all the goodness these things bring. In addition to our giving tree—which will address specific program needs and fulfill the wishes of individual, under-resourced clients—we are making a call for items universally needed by the adults with disabilities whom we serve. We're collecting the following "Gifts from the Heart" November 23rd to December 15th.

### Gift Cards and Certificates

- Gas/fuel
- Hair salon
- Walmart
- Costco
- Target
- McDonalds
- Burger King
- Dairy Queen
- Dollar Tree
- Family Dollar
- Cinemark
- Myrna Loy
- Big Dipper
- Carousel

### Recreation and Activities

- Adult coloring books
- Crayons, markers, and colored pencils
- Board games (all ages)
- Books for various reading levels and abilities
- Puzzles (both cardboard and wooden, easy to moderate)

### Hygiene / Personal Care Items

- Shampoo
- Body wash (men and women)
- Cetaphil cleanser
- Cetaphil lotion (or other non-scented)
- Toothpaste

### Other

- Gift wrapping paper
- Scotch tape



Donations can be dropped off at the West Mont administrative office at 2708 Bozeman Avenue in Helena on or before Thursday, December 15th. Questions can be directed to Janelle Egli at 406-447-3109 or [jegli@westmont.org](mailto:jegli@westmont.org).

## Wake the Giant Music Festival 2023

Save the date for West Mont's third annual Wake the Giant Music Festival: Saturday, August 26th. We'll announce our lineup early in 2023, and we'll also share some big news about an "add-on" to next year's festivities. Stay tuned, but in the meantime...



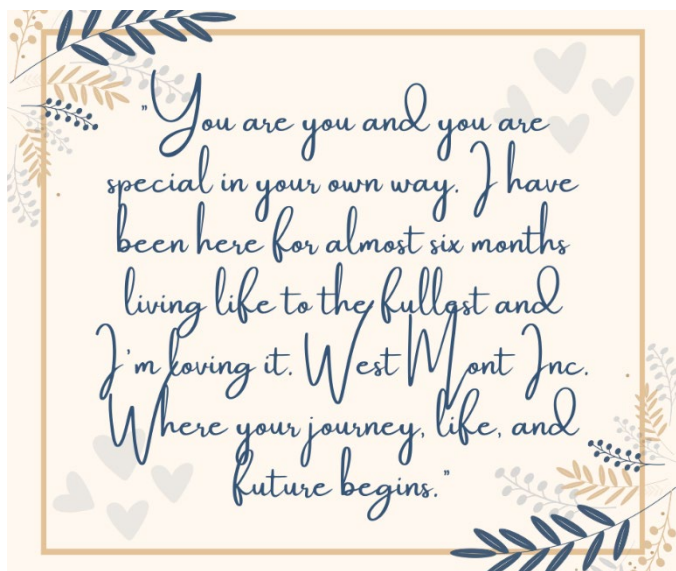
Beginning November 16<sup>th</sup>, enter KTVH's Great Gift Giveaway for a chance to win four festival tickets (\$180 value at \$45 per ticket) and a \$20 gift certificate for flowers or produce redeemable at our farm or flower shop. Visit [www.ktvh.com](http://www.ktvh.com) and go to "Contests" for more information.

## "Saleena's World" Is Showcased in the Independent Record

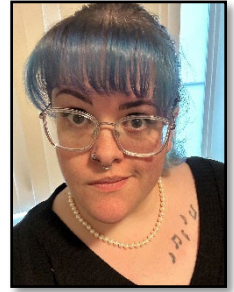


Self-advocacy is an important skill for everyone, and our Saleena is rocking it in this department! She recently wrote a letter to the editor of the Independent Record talking about her day-to-day life and her experiences at West Mont. Her letter was featured in the October 30, 2022, edition of the

newspaper, and prior to publication, Saleena had the chance to give members of the press an in-depth look at the West Mont vocational sites she works at; namely, West Mont Farm & Gardens and the West Mont Flower Shop. We're thankful for Saleena's kind words and so proud of her for the role she played in promoting our special organization. Click [here](#) to read the full article.



## Get to Know Jessica, West Mont's Nurse Manager



Q: Where were you born?

A: Butte, MT

Q: What did you think you were going to be when you grew up?

A: A music teacher

Q: Are you house Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw, or Hufflepuff?

A: Ravenclaw

Q: What is your favorite series or sitcom?

A: Bob's Burgers

Q: How did you get into this line of work?

A: Started in this field as a fresh 18 year old and did it for 7 years before pursuing further education which eventually led me to nursing and back to the root of my passion for caring for people.

Q: What is your guiding value and how does it make you successful in the work you do?

A: If there is something small you could do that would make a noticeable impact for another person, you should always do it. It comes into play every single interaction I have with coworkers, clients and in my personal life. It has led me to be an effective leader and to be a valuable team player.

Q: What lessons have you learned in work and/or life this year?

A: Nothing is guaranteed

Q: What is your favorite holiday tradition?

A: Baking and decorating cookies for Santa every year with my kids. We always make Santa at least one dinosaur shaped cookie

Q: What are three things that you are grateful for in this season or moment?

A: 1) That the universe led me to this job when I was feeling like I wasn't cut out to be a nurse. 2) We no longer live in an RV and have a stable roof over our heads. 3) My family.

Q: What is something you are looking forward to in 2023?

A: My partner taking and passing the NCLEX after she graduates nursing school at the end of 2022.

## End of Year Giving

During the months of November and December, West Mont will be actively raising money for construction at West Mont Farm & Gardens. Funds will go towards developing Morgan's Orchard, which will include a new event center. Construction will involve landscaping, hardscaping, retrofitting an existing maintenance shop, and other site improvements.

Upon completion, the orchard will provide West Mont's clients with a beautiful, functional, and safe space for recreating and working, as well as provide community members, local organizations, and private parties with a unique space for gathering.

Importantly, this project will give West Mont a new and critical revenue stream to support ongoing operational expenses and fund new initiatives that align with our mission of providing client-based care that promotes dignity, ability, and independence.

### Ways to make your tax-deductible, year-end gift:

- 1) Call! 406-447-3109
- 2) Send a check. 2708 Bozeman Ave Helena MT 59601
- 3) Visit our website. [westmonthelena.com](http://westmonthelena.com)
- 4) Donate on [Facebook/Instagram](#) (@westmonthelena)
- 5) Contribute via [GoFundMe](#)
- 6) Send funds via Venmo (@WestMont)
- 7) Pay us with [PayPal](#)

*Your recurring donations on Facebook will be matched 100% up to \$100 11/15-12/31!*

We're now on Venmo!





venmo

**Thank you for your contribution!**



Mail Your End-of-Year Donation to West Mont  
2708 Bozeman Ave Helena, MT 59601

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Select Your Donation Amount:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25           | <input type="checkbox"/> Check             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50           | <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500          | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit/Debit Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000         | <i>Complete section below</i>              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |  |

**Name on Card:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CVC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

I'll make a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_/mo.



Thank you to the Big Dipper for gifting our ghouls Ice Cream on Halloween! You made our celebration more treat than trick.

## A Special Thanks to Our Sponsors, Partners, and Supporters!

