

# West Mont Times

dignity • ability • choice

Spring 2018

Editor: Arlene Flynn

## Ashleigh Heimbach Promoted to President



West Mont is pleased to announce the recent promotion of **Ashleigh Heimbach to President/Executive Director**. Although officially promoted in December, Ashleigh had been the acting President for many months prior. She has also held a variety of positions over her six years at West Mont including Chief Operating Officer and Financial Director. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management with emphasis in Accounting from Montana State University - Billings.

Says Ashleigh, “Thus begins a new and compelling chapter for West Mont. The hiring of a new Executive Director comes at the perfect time as we celebrate 45 years of being one of the leading nonprofit organizations supporting developmentally disabled adults in Helena. I am so excited for the opportunity to serve West Mont. It is indeed an honor having been selected, and I look forward to working with the staff, the board, and community members to explore new opportunities and face the challenges of the future. I have no doubt that the next 45 years are going to bring new and exciting challenges and successes and I look forward to each and every one of YOU being a part of it.”

Ashleigh brings more than ten years of experience in finance and management skills. Prior to joining West Mont, she worked for Belgrade Urgent Care as their Patient Billing Manager while she finished her degree. She is also a current member of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Helena Class of 2018. Congratulations Ashleigh!

## West Mont Awarded CDBG & HOME Grants

West Mont is excited to announce that it has been awarded a **\$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** and **\$277,344 Home Investment Partnership**



**Program (HOME) grant** from the **Montana Department of Commerce**. Both grants are funded by the **US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** and administered by the Department of Commerce on behalf of the **State of Montana**.

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Thanks also to **County Development Coordinator Laura Erikson** and **Stahly Engineering’s Robie Culver** for all of their assistance. The CDBG and HOME Grants are instrumental in ensuring that much needed renovations and updates can move forward...sooner than later at the **West Mont Farm & Gardens** group home.

We are also pleased to announce that **SMA Architects** will be the architect for this project. SMA was awarded the contract for our **CDBG Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) Grant** so they are very familiar with the Farm. They will be working closely with West Mont on all aspects of the project from the final design until its completion. **(see Farm pg. 2)**

Thanks once again to the **Lewis and Clark County Commissioners** for sponsoring our grant applications.

## Bob Kluger Estate Bequeaths \$10,000 to West Mont

West Mont was the recent recipient of a generous \$10,000 bequest from the estate of **Bob Kluger** whose son is one of our long-term residents. **Charitable Giving** is vital to West Mont, it helps us continue our mission in serving people with disabilities. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Kluger for remembering West Mont in his will.

Did you know that by donating to West Mont, you can have your gift applied towards something lasting, such as an endowment, or a capital project, or you can designate these funds to a particular area of our organization that you would like to support. Although an unrestricted bequest is of special value

because it gives us the freedom to use funds where they are needed the most, we understand that you may have a specific area at West Mont that you may wish to support.

Have you planned *your* Estate? Did you know that if you do not have a will when you pass away, state law will direct how your property will be distributed under a one-size-fits-all statutory formula. This is called intestate succession and the decisions made by the state may not fully reflect your true wishes. We encourage everyone to make the appropriate plans now to ensure that your wishes are fulfilled. **(see Bequests pg. 2)**

# A Message from the President

Change is a normal part of everyday life; however, 2018 is shaping up to be a year of particularly big changes at West Mont. Aside from my promotion to President, we are becoming very aware of the current budget constraints due to the legislative session this year. Our DDP funding was cut 2.99% on January 1<sup>st</sup>. While this is significantly less than we were expecting, it's still a large amount of funding that we won't have the opportunity to pass along to our employees and to cover everyday expenses.



Ashleigh Heimbach

Another, more recent change, has happened through the closing of Helena Industries. Their closing was a shock to us all and our main priority was to help those displaced clients find meaningful work. I'm happy to report that we've taken on a total of 15 new clients, five clients that live with us and the remaining 10 come from a variety of residential settings outside of West Mont. We have also been given the opportunity to pick up a number of different mailing contracts that will keep our Blaine facility very busy and bring in additional revenue to West Mont.

Internally change is also taking place. **Gia Bradley** has been promoted to Financial Director, **Carolyn Williams** has been hired as our Administrative Assistant, **Kathy Wiseman** is now onboard with West Mont as our Assistant Program Manager for Supported Living, **Eric Schaible** was hired for the Assistant Program Manager position at the Farm, and 27 other direct support staff.

As we work through this year of big changes in our field, we know there may be a few bumps in the road. We ask for your patience and teamwork. Our commitment at West Mont, as always, is to provide the highest quality services possible. I thank you all for your continued commitment to help the individuals we serve live life to the fullest. I am incredibly humbled and honored to have the opportunity to advance West Mont's mission to create opportunities that promote respect and quality of life for our clients.

## West Mont Discontinues Salsa

You may have noticed the salsa section at the grocery store looking a bit lean lately. After much deliberation, West Mont has made the decision to discontinue our salsa business. This is due to a variety of reasons. Our canner recently retired and we did not own the recipe. From a financial stand point, it was becoming more cost prohibitive to continue manufacturing. With deep government cutbacks this past year, we are carefully reviewing all areas of our organization to ensure that we continue to operate responsibly for our clients. Disappointing as it is, we know it is the best business decision that we could make for West Mont.



### Bequests from page 1

If your will is already valid and up-to-date and you would like to add another beneficiary such as West Mont, your attorney can prepare a codicil without you having to rewrite the entire will. You can also designate West Mont as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy, or real estate.

- A bequest *costs nothing now*, yet it gives you the satisfaction of providing for West Mont in the future.
- You retain full control and use of your assets during your lifetime.
- You may modify your bequest if circumstances change.

As you make your estate plans, we hope that you will consider joining the **West Mont Legacy Society** by including us in your will. If you let us know of your plans, we will welcome you as a member. Know that your gift will go to good use and may save your estate tax dollars. For additional information, please contact **Arlene Flynn** at **406-447-3109**.

### Farm from pg. 1



With much of the preliminary work yet to be done, we anticipate construction will begin in October and take 9 - 12 months to complete. Once finished, the group home will provide a safer, more functional environment that will allow our clients to enjoy their life on the Farm.

In addition to the home renovations, we also have many plans for the Farm site itself. Now that the decision to renovate has been made, we will soon be able to move forward with the site upgrades which include **Morgan's Maze**, an **Interpretive Trail**, and **community gardens**. As the home construction process evolves, you will begin to hear more about the 'outside' updates as well. Stay tuned.

Additional funding for our farm improvements is still needed and you can help out with the purchase of a **tax deductible engraved brick** starting at \$50.00. All bricks will displayed at the Farm. If you have any questions, give us a call at **406-447-3100**.





## Employee Longevity Awards

West Mont's annual **Employee Longevity Awards** were presented in January. On hand to recognize employees for their years of service were **West Mont Operating Board Chair David Peretto** and **President/Executive Director Ashleigh Heimbach**. A few people were unable to attend and we would like to recognize their service as well: **Lisa Gadaire**, 25-years; **Christine Anderson** and **Gary Leddige**, 15-years; **Erik Gumeringer** and **Morgan Popp**, 10-years, and **Tina Maedche**, and **Morgan Broadbrooks**, 5-years. Thank you all for your dedication and years of service.



**30-Years**  
L\_R: David Peretto, Ginny Heinert & Ashleigh Heimbach

**25-Years**  
Carol Hobbs

**10-Years**  
Vickie Violette

**5-Years**  
Arlene Flynn

**5-Years**  
Robin Farrell

## 5-Year Anniversaries



**5-Year Anniversaries**  
Amy Drennon

Courtney Gates

Sean Hefflin

Mary Caruso

Raymond VonBergen

## In Memory of...



**Tom Ranger**

Clients and staff were saddened by the recent passing of two of long-term West Mont family members. **Tom Ranger** was a West Mont resident for over 36-years. After spending time in the hospital, Tom was sent home on hospice care. He was able to spend the rest of his time doing what he enjoyed best at Ron's Place. Tom passed away peacefully in his sleep. He was 59-years old. **Lalon Anderson** was a long-term vocational client, receiving services from West Mont for over 29-years. He held a variety of jobs throughout the years including shredding and bulk mailings at Blaine Work Services. Lalon was 72 years old. Tom and Lalon are missed by our staff and clients and on behalf of all of us, we would like to offer our deepest condolences to their families.



**Lalon Anderson**

## Pam Worthy Retires

We were sad to see one of our amazing nurses, **Pam Worthy** retire. She began her career at West Mont in November 2010 at our Lewis & Clark location. In 2011, she moved to the Caldwell House when it opened and then finally to Ron's Place.



**Pam provides care for Lori at Ron's Place**

She was a tremendous asset to our organization. The compassion she showed our clients always set them at ease. She was also a great team player, consistently working extra shifts when needed to help out. She has been an inspiration to other staff. While we are saddened to see Pam leave, we wish her all the best in her retirement.

**West Mont's Cheer Squad** was on hand to perform at the Capitol for **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** held in March. This year's theme, "**See Me for Me.**"

*At right: The Davis Family Doyle, Tanner, & Karen*



Then on March 21, our Blaine facility hosted a celebration for **National Down Syndrome Day**. Both **Caroline McWhorter** and **Tanner Davis** did a

*At right: The McWhorter Family, Mary, Caroline & Hugh*



great job as our featured speakers.

**LOCATIONS**

Blaine Work Services:

406-447-3120

Caldwell House

Cedar Apartments

Farm Group Home

Farm Vocational:

406-227-7565

Flower & Trading Company:

406-447-3123

www.westmontflowers.org

Hillside Group Home

Humbolt Apartments

Lewis & Clark Duplex

Melodee House

Ron's Place

Supported Employment

Tara Group Home

Tara Apartments

Townsend Group Home

VASTT: 406-443-1554

For more information, please

contact our Main Office:

406-447-3100

or by email:

wmoffice@westmont.org

Follow us on



Proud partner agency of:

LIVE UNITED



of the Lewis & Clark Area

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

## West Mont

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Main Office

2708 Bozeman Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Helena, MT 59601

Permit No. 226



**Mother's Day is May 13!** The clients and staff at **West Mont Flower & Trading Company** look forward to helping you with all of your floral needs for that special mother in your life. Give them a call today: **406-447-3123**



## Mother's Day Pots & Plants Sale



Come out for the **25th annual Mother's Day Pots & Plants Sale** co-sponsored by **West Mont Farm & Gardens** and the **Archie Bray Foundation**. Bring the whole family and join us for a fun day. Glaze-it-yourself pots and watch them get raku

fired; shop for beautiful one-of-a-kind planters and vases. Visit the West Mont Farm & Gardens booth to purchase bedding plants and more. Enjoy face painting, kid's clay, and delicious wood-fired pizza. It's **FREE** to attend and open to the public. *See you at the Bray!*

**Date/Time: Saturday, May 12, 2018 - 10 am - 3 pm**

**Where: The Archie Bray 2915 Country Club Avenue**

## HARVEST DAYS 2018

Join us on Friday, September 21, 2018 at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel as we commemorate two West Mont milestones, our **45th Anniversary** and the **25th Annual Black Tie Blue Jean Benefit Dinner!** You'll enjoy a delicious dinner, dessert, entertainment, auctions, and our famous **Wall of Wine**. If you would like to help, we are looking for donations of nice bottles of wine for the "Wall." Please contact our main office: **406-447-3100 and thank you!**



Two weeks before on Saturday, September 8, Harvest Days kick-offs with **Family Fun Day at West Mont Farm & Gardens**. This popular day of fun includes lunch, a pumpkin patch, entertainment, wagon rides, a petting zoo, and lots of games & activities for the kids. Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$30.00 for a carload of 6 or more. *Pay at the Farm gate.*

