

Artist Lou Archambault Donates Artwork

West Mont was thrilled to receive a call from esteemed Helena artist **Lou Archambault** who wanted to donate some of his artwork. Lou stated that West Mont is his favorite charity. It is an organization he can relate to as his only brother, Peter was developmentally disabled. Lou said that Peter was loved by all who knew him. His hope is that his art will bring joy to our residents.

Lou generously donated seven beautiful pieces of art including six original paintings and one framed reproduction. Each stunning piece will enhance the wall that it is displayed on. We are honored and extremely grateful that Lou thought of West Mont for this significant gift. **Thank you Lou!**



Lou Archambault & West Mont president Ashleigh Heimback

Thank You to Our Amazing Supporters in 2018

While the new year is off to very a fast start, we want to take a moment to thank our amazing supporters in 2018. Gifts under the West Mont's Christmas tree truly 'runneth' over in December.



We received a record number of donations including clothing, games, puzzles, toiletries, etc. from people

throughout the community. They generously shared their holiday spirit resulting in an especially nice Christmas for our clients. ***Thank you for your support!***

We would also like to thank our **Foundation Board Chair, Greg Pace**. In addition to serving on our Board and working full-time at **The Montana Radio Company**, Greg has donned a Santa outfit for the last 5-years and visited our group homes and vocational sites. He delivered presents and spread Christmas cheer in full



Greg with Ron's Place resident Patsy

character mode. With a twinkle in his eye and a jolly laugh, he brings smiles to everyone he comes in contact with. He has also volunteered his time as Santa at our Flower & Trading Company's annual Winterfest event.

Thank you Greg for all that you do for West Mont.

West Mont Farm & Gardens Project Update

NEWS FLASH As we go to press, **SMA Architects** has finalized the bid documents for the West Mont Farm & Gardens group home renovations and we are awaiting approval by the **Department of Commerce**. Once that is done, a legal ad with a Request for Proposals from contractors will be published. Sealed bids will be opened 30-days after that and a contractor chosen. We anticipate construction will begin sometime in April and take 4 - 6 months to complete. This spring we will also break ground on **Morgan's Maze** and you will soon see it take shape. It has been a long road to get to this point and we are excited to be moving forward. An official groundbreaking for each of these projects will be announced once we have firm dates.

A Message from the President

Courageous Lives.

That's the theme of West Mont's celebration for **March's Disability Awareness Month**. All throughout March we will be celebrating the unique gifts and abilities that the people West Mont supports bring to the world.



Ashleigh Heimbach

While awareness campaigns may get a bad rap in the age of social media advocacy, Disability Awareness Month is a chance to let people with intellectual/developmental disabilities shine in a world that often forgets they exist. At West Mont that means celebrating successes and sharing struggles.

Courageous Lives.

As an aunt of six, I want my nieces and nephews to lead courageous lives, to be people who are confident, strong, and determined. That's the same goal I would wish for every person we support at West Mont. Being courageous doesn't require specific abilities, talents, or skills. It doesn't even require success. But it does mean believing in yourself and what you stand for.

I have seen that quality in many people I have served during my career at West Mont. They are the people who are confident in their own choices and decisions; even when others may disagree, they know what they want. They are the people strong enough to not be intimidated by standing out in a crowd because they have a disability. They are the people determined to do something independently, even when it would be easier to have someone help them or do it for them. They are courageous, and they lead courageous lives.

As we celebrate the courageous lives of people with disabilities this month, let us be courageous in standing with and for them as advocates and friends.

Employee Promotion and New Faces at West Mont

Congratulations to **Aaron Zarske** on his recent promotion to **Program Manager at Ron's Place**. He also recently celebrated his 10th year Anniversary at West Mont. Two great milestones. Alright Aaron!



Laura Barrett

New faces in our administrative office, include nurse manager, **Donna Hoekema, RN** and payroll clerk **Laura Barrett**. At our other locations, new Direct Support Specialists (DSS) include: **Peter Biskis** at Blaine Services, **Brian Hamilton** at Cedar Apartments, and **Elena Carroll** at Humbolt Apartments. At the Caldwell House are **Cary Nyland** and **Brandon Blacker** and at Ron's Place **Christine Brussard**, **Miranda Pace**, and nurse **Desta Partarb, LPN**. Our Tara location added 7-new employees including **Brittany Bakke**, **Shawn Beckman**, **Maribeth Colitzas**, **Kinsey Johnson**, **Raymond Salandi**, **Donna Sanchez**, and **Jonathan Sherrod**. At Hillside, new hires include **Christopher Colitzas**, **Cynthia Ellmaker**, and **Amanda Gray**. At Lewis

and Clark, new DSS's include **Taylor Young** and **Taj Rae** and our Flower & Trading Co. has a new delivery driver/florist, **Grace Kocena**. Last, but not least, **Matthew Neupauer** has been hired on as a janitor. Welcome everyone! We are excited to have you on our West Mont Team!

We are still looking for people that want to make a difference. **Now Hiring**
Sound interesting? Learn more at:
www.westmonthelena.com/careers



Annual Employee Longevity Awards

Congratulations to this year's *Employee Longevity Award* recipients! Employees were recognized in January with a breakfast at the Administrative office. Operating Board Chair, **David Peretto** and West Mont President, **Ashleigh Heimbach** were on hand to acknowledge these employees for their career milestones. **Thank you all for your years of service.**

Thank You To Our Awesome Staff

10-Year Award Recipients



L-r: David Peretto with Ed Hastings, Pom MacDonald, & Russ Stein. Aaron Zarske is with Ashleigh Heimbach. Camera shy: Monica Brown, Placida Garcia, & Kristine Germain.

5-Year Award Recipients



L-r: David Peretto with Robin Biskis, Deanne Horne, Paul Lane, & Keri Murgel. Ashleigh Heimbach with Brandon Powell. Camera shy: Jessica Reis, Jason Pratt, Stormy Streets, Delisa Hiel, Teresa Garland, Luke Bighorn

Vickie Violette Retires



Tara Program Coordinator, Jeff Elliott gives Vickie her 'plants'

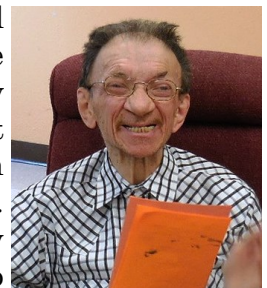
2018 ended on a bittersweet note with the retirement of our Clinical Coordinator, **Vickie Violette, LPN**. Vickie had been with West Mont for over ten years and worked as our traveling nurse. She made the rounds to all of our locations providing care and monitoring our clients

health. She was loved by our clients and staff alike and is terribly missed. Clients painted their handprints and then planted them in containers which were given to her as a going away gift. *Happy retirement.*



In Memory of Dan Cunliffe

West Mont was saddened by the passing of **Dan Cunliffe** on February 11 at the age of 68. Dan had been receiving residential and vocational services and had been with West Mont since 1984. He was an incredibly kind man with a big heart and contagious smile. Dan always a kind word to say. West Mont felt a fitting way to honor his memory was to encourage everyone to participate in a random act of kindness on Random Acts of Kindness Day on Sunday, February 17. Dan is greatly missed by his West Mont family.



WEST MONT LOCATIONS

Blaine Work Services -

406-447-3120

Caldwell House

Cedar Apartments

Farm Group Home

Farm Vocational -

406-227-7565

Flower & Trading Co. -

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 email

wmoffice@westmont.org

Follow us on



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

West Mont

dignity • ability • choice

Main Office

2708 Bozeman Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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Helena, MT 59601

Permit No. 226

**Come Celebrate
Developmental Disabilities
Awareness Month & World
Down Syndrome Day**

Join us at the West Mont main office for an Ice Cream Social to celebrate **Disability Awareness Month** and **World Down Syndrome Day**.

March is a month to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with disabilities and to reflect on the progress made toward improving their quality of life. We encourage everyone to wear **BRIGHT** socks.

Date: Thursday, March 21

Time: 1 PM - 3 PM

Place: 2708 Bozeman Ave.

Helena



**Quality Doesn't Have
to Mean Expensive**

Our clients and staff at West Mont Flower & Trading Company look forward to creating the perfect floral arrangement for you for any occasion. Now in its 6th year of operation, the shop continues to expand and offer more employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Stop by the store at **3150 Mitchell Ave.** (just off of Custer Ave.). Or give them a call. You will see that quality doesn't have to mean expensive.



Amber shows off a recent floral arrangement from the Flower & Trading Co.

Phone: **406-447-3123**

