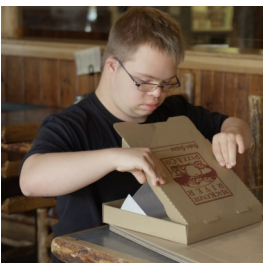


A Message from The President Thanks to Employers Who Take the Leap



Ashleigh Heimbach

In uncertain times, it's important to remember the positive. Less than 30% of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are employed. With the right coaching, simple accommodations and employers who can see talent, that number could rise dramatically.

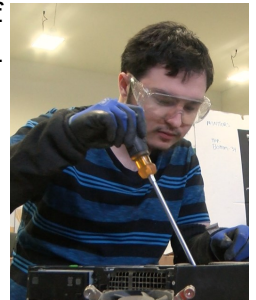


Tanner at MacKenzie River Pizza Company

How do we know? We've got far reaching arms and have made some irreplaceable partnerships with local area businesses. We have seen how incredible our clients do with community work and integrating with people without disabilities.

They are in retail (like **Sean**, who works at **West Mont Flower & Trading Co.**), food services (like **Tanner**, who works at **Mackenzie River Pizza**) and technology (like **Nick**, who works at **406 Recycling**).

By providing meaningful employment opportunities, local business's empower people. The results are often a win-win for employers: businesses who hire people with disabilities are often seen more favorably in their communities, plus employees with disabilities have lower turnover rates and are often considered model employees. Not to mention our amazing staff are there to help job coach, answer questions, provide constructive feedback for both the employee and employer.



Nick at 406 Recycling

- a lack of opportunities
- a lack of training
- stigma from potential employers

We hope employers will continue to educate themselves on employing someone with a disability. We know they won't regret the decision.

West Mont Staff...Going Above & Beyond the Call of Duty

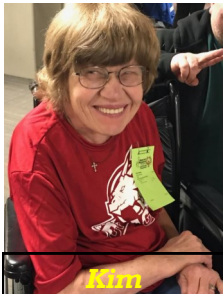
The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the entire country. As a result, the new normal has become unpredictable and for many filled with unease. West Mont stepped up to meet this new and ever changing way of living. First and foremost, was to protect our clients and staff while still being able to provide care to the people we serve. Following the governor's directive to 'shelter in place' West Mont temporarily closed its vocational programs and those staff were reassigned to the group homes. This meant that what used to be routine was anything but. Shifts and days off changed for many, but through it all our staff have done an incredible job. (See Staff on page 2)



The Caldwell House PJ's Day

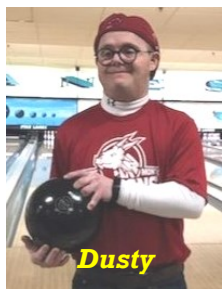
West Mont In The Spotlight

Dragons Score Big at Special Olympics



The **West Mont Dragons** recently competed in the **Special Olympics Bowling Championships** that were held in Butte. They took home lots of medals and ribbons to show for their efforts, but, more importantly, they had a lot of fun. A

big shout out of thanks to **Susan Pesta** who was our head coach this year. Susan was ably assisted by **Lynne Grosfield, Stormy Streets**, and last but



not least, our dedicated **staff**. They are always on hand to help out and ensure our athletes get to the practices and the games on time. **Thank you all!**

Notice our new look? Thanks to a very generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, we were able to purchase new team uniforms. What a



classy update from our old look. Our athletes were very proud to show off their new logo and shirts. This would not have been possible without the generosity

Staff (continued from page 1)

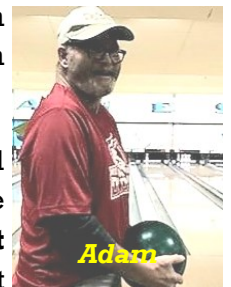
West Mont wants to give a big shout out of **THANKS** to all of our amazing staff on the frontlines. They have remained calm under pressure and continued to provide the quality care our residents deserve. Our group homes also got very creative. The Caldwell House had a PJ day and the folks at Hillside group home had fun 'preparing' for COVID-19. We recognized some of these folks on our Facebook pages and encourage you to check it out. Leave a comment or a 'like' for them for a job well done. *Thank you staff!*

of this donor. This donor with a big-heart also paid for a new air filtration system at our Blaine facility, the repair costs of 2-freezers *and* all of the food that was lost. **THANK YOU for your support!**



Now that the uniforms have been taken care of, we continue to raise funds to purchase new sports equipment and to help cover the cost of our entry fees. Did you know it costs \$25.00 - \$30.00 per athlete to attend the state games? This does not even include the costs for transportation or our staff wages.

You can show your team spirit and help us raise these funds. Purchase an **"I Support the West Mont Dragons"** t-shirt for \$15.00. For each one sold, the team earns \$7.50! If you would like to support our team, please call Arlene at **406-447-3100**.



GO DRAGONS!

"Always take the high road. It's far less crowded." ~ Warren Buffett

HILLSIDE COVID DEFENSE TEAM



"Covid-19 Not Even Once"



West Mont In The Spotlight

In Memory Of...



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of three members of our West Mont family. **Terri Barraugh** passed away on December 24, 2019 at the age of 55. Terri lived at Lewis & Clark. She was a long-term vocational client. She was one of the first workers when our Farm & Gardens opened. She then transferred over to West Mont Flower & Trading Co. when it opened in 2013. Most recently, she participated in our VASTT day program. Sadly, on March 2, 2020, Terri's mother, **Elizabeth (Betty) Barraugh**, a long-term friend of West Mont passed away.

On March 20, 2020, **David Speich** passed away at the age of 73. David, began receiving residential services from West Mont in 1981. Most recently, he lived at our Caldwell House. He was also a participant in our vocational programs until retiring several years ago. David enjoyed a variety of activities and he liked going on outings with his housemates.



Karen Hays, a West Mont employee passed away on February 16, 2020. She began her career at West Mont at Humbolt Apartments and eventually transferred to our Farm group home where she spent the remainder of her career. Karen was a dedicated employee. In December 2019, she was recognized with a longevity award for her 5-year work anniversary.

Long-Term Resident Relocates

It was bittersweet to see one of our long-term residents, **Megan Shepard** recently move away. Megan had been with us since 2006. She relocated to Missoula to be closer to her family. In addition to being a resident, she was very active at West Mont. She participated in our Cheer Squad and on our Special Olympics team.



All of these individuals are greatly missed by their West Mont family.

WESTMONT Flower Happenings

FLOWER & TRADING CO.

There's a line in a Bruce Springsteen song that says, "Trouble times have come to my hometown," well that sure rings true, but on a much more global scale over the past few weeks. Like most businesses, our flower shop had been buzzing with happiness and energy coming off a very busy and successful Valentine's Day and rolling into spring, then....



Robin Farrell

#1 FLOWER SHOP
Best of Helena
2020 IR Survey

There has been some awesomeness during the dreadful Corona downer. Our little shop was voted by the Helena community as the #1 flower shop in town, we had placed 2nd for several years and we finally broke through as the #1. We all are very proud of this accomplishment; our clients are beyond excited. Thank you everyone so very much!

Speaking of clients, we hired a new client recently. His name is Tommy. He is quite a presence standing 6'7" tall! We think of him as a gentle giant and are thrilled to have him aboard. He will be such a great hand in the garden and greenhouse this summer.

As the state begins to reopen and life returns to somewhat normal, keep in mind **Mother's Day** is rapidly approaching. A flower bouquet would be a great way to show your love and appreciation for the most important person in your life. We will be open for delivery and curbside pick-up. **Call: 406-447-3123**

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

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,
contact our Main Office:

406-447-3100 or email:

wmooffice@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

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Permit No. 226

#1 FLOWER SHOP

Best of Helena

2020 IR Survey

WESTMONT
FLOWER & TRADING CO.

DIGNITY • ABILITY • CHOICE

**Share Some
Happiness
with Mom**

Ph: 447-3123



Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10, 2020

www.westmontflowers.org

Phase II of Farm & Gardens Updates to Begin in 2020

Now that the group home renovations are finished and everyone is settled in, we have begun design work with SMA Architects on Phase II of our 10-year Farm plan. We look forward to breaking ground in 2020 and will keep you posted once a definite date has been decided!

Mark Your Calendars

**Harvest Days
26th Annual
Family Fun Day
Saturday
September 12, 2020**

